ENTERTAINMENT / A24

Fun jam: FrancisM & Maxene

WORLD / A8

France's worst night yet: Youths fire on police, 1,408 cars torched

NEWS / A4

Mikey ends leave from Congress

SPORTS / A17

Centro Atletico captures Battle of Courts inter-club crown

PDI, Quiz Bee Foundation search for best schools

By Margaux C. Ortiz

JOURNALISM WORKSHOP OR GUYITO sculpture?

If you're one of the top 20 public high schools that excel in science and technology, you don't have to have to choose—you'll get both.

PDI/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Chilean police arrest ex-Peru leader Fujimori

SANTIAGO—FORMER PERUVIAN PRESIdent Alberto Fujimori, wanted in Peru on corruption and human rights abuse charges, was arrested early Monday just hours after his stunning unannounced arrival in Chile, police said.

Fujimori, 65, was detained on an arrest warrant issued by Judge Orlando Alvarez,

CHILEAN/ A6

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

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GMA backtracks on wage hike issue

Won't back legislated pay raise

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Ronnel W. Domingo and Christine O. Avendaño

WARNINGS FROM economic managers and advisers of the adverse effects of raising wages on the viability of businesses have prompted President Macapagal-Arroyo to retreat from her earlier announcement that she would push for a legislated wage increase.

At a meeting with a group of businessmen after speaking before the country's major business organizations, the President clarified her position on the legislated wage increase being asked by labor groups in light of the price increases brought about by the expanded value-added tax, Trade Secretary Peter Favila said.

Favila said the President did not endorse a legislated wage increase but instead asked Congress to ensure that all businesses fully complied with the average 8-percent increase in wages granted by the regional wage boards (RWBs) in July.

Labor groups have been calling for an adjustment of at least P125 in the minimum wages.

Asked if Ms Arroyo was back-

GMA/ A6

President, Republic of the Philippine
Hotel Intercontinental Manila
PCC

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo bows in prayer before the start of a meeting with members of the Foreign Chambers of Commerce and local businessmen at Hotel Inter-Continental in Makati City.

LYN RILLON

Peso again the darling of Asian markets

SINGAPORE—THE PHILIPpine peso is looking increasingly like the darling of Asian currency markets, thanks to strong inflows of cash from overseas Filipino workers, higher interest rates and the implementation of the expanded value-added tax (VAT) law.

The peso is on course to end the year as Asia's best-performing currency, although this looked uncertain just a few months ago.

Between May and early July, the peso shed about 4.5 percent against the dollar and came within a whisker of hitting a record low as a political crisis unnerved investors.

But with President Macapagal-Arroyo surviving an attempt by opponents to oust her over allegations of election cheating and graft, sentiment has improved.

"I don't see anything short of another political blowout that would make the peso depreciate back to the levels it was standing at during the political crisis," said Deutsche Bank currency strategist Mirza Baig.

The peso had firmed up about 3 percent in the past month and hit a five-month peak at around 54.55 against the US dollar last week. It closed at 54.68

PESO AGAIN/ A6

Victim of wrongful arrest urged to sue policemen

By Dona Pazzibugan and Luige A. del Puerto

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POlice wants to move on but the man it mistook for Abu Sayyaf bandit leader Radulan Sahiron says his family won't let the PNP get off so easily.

Antonio Gara, 43, yesterday said he was considering filing charges of wrongful arrest against the policemen who held his wife and four children, aged 5 to 10, at gunpoint as they hauled him away from their home in Zamboanga Sibugay on Saturday.

"Yes, we'll file charges if we can," Gara said in Filipino on dzMM radio.

"No one has told me 'sorry.' No one. What they told me was that I should not file charges because they did not hurt me. I said if it were up to me, I would not file charges. The problem is my family, my wife, don't agree because my children really took it badly. They want to file countercharges."

Unlawful arrest is punishable by one to six months in jail and a fine not exceeding P500.

On Saturday, President Macapagal-Arroyo quickly announced the supposed capture of Sahiron—a one-armed bandit also known as Commander Putol—only to rue it later after veteran journalist Arlyn dela Cruz, who knew Sahiron from way back, told the police they had the wrong man.

Sahiron's right arm had been amputated. In Gara's case, it was his left arm that was missing.

Gara, reputed to be a *sabungero* (cockfight aficionado), said he had just gotten home and was entering the gate of his house when three policemen accosted him. He did not see any nameplates on them.

"They hauled me inside a van like a pig. They hit me on the head three times. Then they told me I

VICTIM/ A6

NO TO WHITEWASH
-GABRIE

REM ZAMORA

WITH THEIR HANDS painted red, militant women call for a thorough investigation of the rape complaint filed against six US servicemen during a rally near the US Embassy in Manila.

DOJ to serve subpoenas on 6 US Marines today

By Philip C. Tubeza and Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WILL serve subpoenas today on six American servicemen accused of raping a 22-year-old Filipino at the Subic Bay Freeport in Zambales on Nov. 1, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said yesterday.

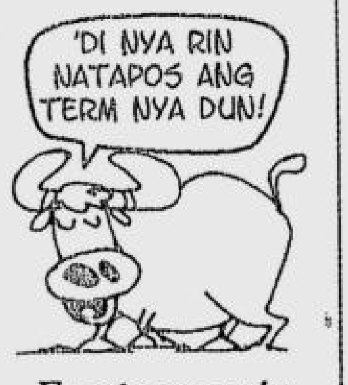
Gonzalez said the Americans would be summoned to appear before the Olongapo City prosecutor for a preliminary investigation either on Nov. 17 or 18. The suspects have 10 days to file their counteraffidavits and answer the rape charge against them.

Gonzalez said Department of Foreign Affairs officials would serve the subpoenas to the US Embassy, which has custody of the suspects. He added that while the government wanted custody of the Americans, DFA protocol arrangements with US officials provided that they be held by the embassy.

"We prefer it that way but we have to resolve this matter together with the DFA because there are diplomatic undertones involved here. In fact, the subpoena will have to be served through the DFA and the DFA will have to serve it," Gonzalez said.

"They [US Marines] have no reason to refuse the subpoena of the prosecutor. They have to file their counteraffidavits and present themselves before the prosecutor. The prosecutors will not

DOJ TO SERVE/ A4


'DI NYA RIN NATAPOS ANG TERM NYA DUN!

Erap wants to attend class reunion

By Nelson F. Flores

THE MOST FAMOUS HIGH school dropout of the Ateneo de Manila University wants to take a leave from court-ordered detention so he could take part in the golden jubilee celebration of High School Class of 1955.

Former President Joseph Estrada, through his lawyer Rene Saguisag, yesterday asked the Sandiganbayan to allow him to attend the celebration next week.

Estrada, who was ousted through "people power" in January 2001, is facing plunder and perjury

ERAP WANTS/ A6

Defensor tells Samar environmentalists to file suit

By Blanche S. Rivera

STANDING FIRM ON HIS DECIsion to allow Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's company to resume logging operations inside the Samar Island Nature Park, Environment Secretary Michael T. Defensor yesterday challenged his critics to take their grievances to court.

Defensor, who signed the order allowing San Jose Timber Corp. (SJTC) to cut trees inside the protected forest, maintained that Enrile's firm had a right to log in the 95,770-hectare area covered by its timber licensing agreement (TLA).

"If they feel that what we did was wrong, they should test it legally," Defensor told the INQUIRER by phone yesterday.

"They should not connect this to my confirmation," said Defensor, who had faced rough sailing at the Commission on Appointments, of which Enrile is a member.

Defensor said Enrile had raised the issue of his company during the Senate's inquiry into existing logging concessions last December following the flash floods that killed and displaced hundreds in Aurora and Quezon.

He said he told senators during the hearings of the Senate committee on environment and the committee of the whole that he would look into Enrile's complaints concerning his TLA.

Enrile had asked four secretaries of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to lift the moratorium on logging

DEFENSOR / A4

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY CYRIL L BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/11/08/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

'We cannot surrender to apathy'

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE PUBLIC'S GROWING INDIFFERENCE TO the unresolved political crisis bedeviling the Arroyo administration has disappointed the country's major Catholic congregations.

"We cannot surrender to apathy. We cannot surrender to darkness," Bro. Manuel de Leon, vice chair of the Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines (AMRSP), told the INQUIRER yesterday.

His statement echoed that of the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP), the umbrella organization of schools that include Ateneo de Manila University, De La Salle University, San Beda College, St. Scholastica's College and the University of Santo Tomas.

The AMRSP, which represents 353 religious congregations nationwide, met in a closed-door general assembly on the Ateneo campus in Quezon City the whole day Sunday. The theme of the conference was "Discerning Our Response to the National Situation."

A total of 106 superiors and representatives of congregations like the Benedictines, Franciscans, Dominicans, Jesuits, Lasallian brothers and Augustinian sisters were in attendance.

At the height several months ago of the political crisis that continues to hound the administration, the AMRSP asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to "voluntarily resign and help bring about a smooth political transition."

During the initial "sharing of sentiments" on Sunday, De Leon said the assembly acknowledged the "strong feeling of indifference" among the public, even as questions on the legitimacy of Ms Arroyo's election victory last year remained unanswered.

Like the public, the religious were just as confused and distrusting of everyone in the administration, opposition, street protesters and even the media, according to De Leon, who is the head of the Marist brothers locally.

"It seems that the main concern of the people is merely survival," he said.

De Leon said the congregations agreed they could not afford to also wallow in the "feeling of helplessness" that had spread among the people, but instead remained hopeful the political crisis would be resolved soon with "nonviolence and compassion for the poor."

"We need to perform our prophetic role," he said. "We need to pray and discern and show our faith and beliefs in concrete action."

De Leon said the AMRSP would conduct a series of dialogues with other Church leaders, Catholic educators, ecclesiastical communities, students and other people of "good will."

The key is to educate the public on the issues and come up with a unified position, he said.

This is also the course of action the CEAP will take when it holds a general assembly this month to tackle the national situation.

The positions taken by the AMRSP and the CEAP appeared to digress, however, from the official stand of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, which has categorically refused to join the clamor for Ms Arroyo's ouster.

The CBCP in an official statement in July fell short of asking Ms Arroyo to resign. The statement, it was noted then, helped defuse the political tension when it called for a search for the truth about the May 2004 elections, but critics saw it as vague and a convenient way for the bishops to disengage themselves from the controversy.

Msgr. Gerry Santos, CEAP chair for Metro Manila, earlier said the CEAP stand was actually in accord with the CBCP statement.

CITIZENS' CONGRESS, OR KANGAROO COURT?

GMA 'trial' starts today

By Norman Bordadora

CONVENORS OF THE CITIZENS' Congress for Truth and Accountability have reserved seats for the President Macapagal-Arroyo or her representatives when it starts hearing evidence on electoral fraud, graft and corruption and human rights violations against the chief executive today.

The opening of the tribunal – dubbed a citizens' congress by its organized leaders and a kangaroo court by the administration – will hear and receive evidence against Ms Arroyo that pro-impeachment congressmen failed to present after the complaints were junked by the House committee on justice in August.

"President Arroyo is fortunate that she has this opportunity to air her side. President (Ferdinand) Marcos and President (Joseph) Estrada didn't have the same opportunity before they were ousted," said Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano, one of the leaders of the foiled impeachment proceedings at the House.

Cayetano, House Minority Leader Francis Escudero and human rights lawyer Romeo Capulong will present the pieces of evidence of culpable violation of the Constitution, betrayal of public trust, and involvement in graft and corruption against Ms Arroyo at the University of the Philippines Theater this morning.

The CCTA's hearings will be on Nov. 8, 9, 15 and 16 and will cover evidence of electoral fraud, political killings and human rights violations and plunder and corruption involving the President.

"The congressmen's role will only be to turn over the evidence and present the information... (as well as) resource persons," Cayetano said.

"In the absence of witnesses, at least we can present the information... information that reasonable and even legal minds might find acceptable," he said.

The citizens' congress will be led by a 15-person "presidium" led by former Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., and will be attended by some 400 delegates.

"We have reserved seats for the President or her representatives. But with or without them, we will have to continue ascertaining the truth," said Dr. Maria Serena Diokno, a history professor at the UP and spokesperson of the CCTA convenors.

On the eve of the opening of the citizens' congress, some 100 members of the People's Coalition for National Survival vowed to effect a citizen's arrest on the President for the "continuing crime of usurpation of authority."

The marching orders to "arrest" Ms Arroyo was read by retired Commodore Ismael Aparri during the PCNS national assembly at the Club Filipino in Greenhills, San Juan.

"GMA is a fake president. She cannot invoke immunity from arrest because she does not have it," according to Linda Montayre, leader of the anti-Arroyo People's Consultative Assembly.

Provided under the Revised Penal Code, citizens' arrest is a warrantless arrest that a private citizen can enforce on a person who is actually committing a crime, or about to commit an offense or when there is probable cause to believe that the person has actually committed a crime. A person who is arrested by another private person must be brought to the nearest police station or jail for detention and legal procedures.

With DJ Yap and Fe Zamora

Air Force delivers 3,682 books to Jolo

By Nikko Dizon

HOW MANY BOOKS DO 13,000 POUNDS make?

A total of 3,682—which required a C-130, the Philippine Air Force's biggest cargo plane, to transport them all from Manila to Jolo.

"It's the first time we had this many books sent to our recipients," Carol Capan of the Rotary Club of Makati told the INQUIRER in a phone interview yesterday.

The Rotary Club, in partnership with Pittsburgh-based Brother's Brother Foundation, has been running a nationwide literacy program called Books Across the Sea (BATS) since 1988.

Recently, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) extended assistance to BATS and funded a three-year project with the Rotary Club to distribute books specifically to public schools in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), Capan said.

Yesterday's hefty delivery was the first in the series of book deliveries under the USAID-funded BATS.

Capan said the books were brand new, hardbound and published by one of the world's leading publishers, McGraw-Hill.

The books were on varied subjects but most were literary works or about literature, with colorful illustrations, she said.

Most were books for the elementary grades, with a handful of college textbooks.

"We always get requests for books. We all know about the lack of books in many of our public schools," Capan said.

She said that a second batch of 3,000 books was set to be transported to Sulu in the coming days.

The program also enjoys the support of the Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines (JSOTF-P) of the US Pacific Command, which had sought the PAF's assistance in transporting the books as well as 2,000 pounds of medicines donated by Knightsbridge International, a US-based nongovernment organization.

For the Philippine Air Force, this has become its way of touching the lives of people who have seen years of conflict and strife, suffering and senseless deaths.

JDV still firmly in control but Pichay issues warning

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE EXPECTED FIREWORKS DID NOT GO off in the House of Representatives yesterday.

Speaker Jose de Venecia remained firmly in the saddle after fellow Lakas-CMD coalition member Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay refused to challenge him for the speakership in plenary session.

"This is an issue involving the majority coalition, so it should be settled in an interparty caucus," said Pichay, facing reporters after a motion to declare all seats vacant in the lower chamber was roundly defeated in a voice vote.

Apparently to buy time, Pichay and members of the Mindanao bloc in the House, who had earlier pledged their support to him, did not back the motion.

"I have yet to challenge [for] the speakership. But if he [De Venecia] can't implement reforms, then I'll be there swinging," said Pichay, as he warned that the number of congressmen "dissatisfied" with De Venecia's leadership was growing by the day.

But De Venecia was already declaring victory.

He said he had "won an overwhelming vote of confidence" from the House members.

"This is a reaffirmation of [the] strong confidence in [his] competent and visionary leadership," said staunch ally Rep. Robert Ace Barbers of Surigao del Norte, reacting to the chamber's vote on the vacancy motion.

Barbers said the House could now pursue with "renewed vigor its economic and political reform agenda that will unleash the economic potential of this country."

Asked why no majority bloc member who had promised to support him, but opposition Rep. Rolex Suplico of Iloilo and Rep. Jacinto Paras of Negros Oriental, had raised and seconded the vacancy motion, respectively, Pichay said: "I have no idea. Maybe they wanted to have some fun."

At 4 p.m. as the House opened its session, there was De Venecia extending his hand to Pichay when the latter entered the session hall.

As the two shook hands, the chamber roared in approval.

Pichay said he did not move to challenge the speakership because he had yet to make up his mind.

"You might have thought that there will be fireworks today, but I'm still having consultations with the House members," Pichay said, adding that he expected the process to take about two weeks.

Human error causes outage

By Abigail L. Ho

BECAUSE OF A LITTLE BUTTON AND HUMAN error, electric power went out in parts of Bulacan, Cainta, Sucat, Quezon City, Cavite and Laguna at about 6 p.m. yesterday for between 30 minutes and one hour.

The reason for the power interruption, according to Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla, was a problem at the Malampaya deep water gas-to-power project, which provides natural gas to three power plants – the 1,000-megawatt (MW) Sta. Rita, the 500-MW San Lorenzo and the 1,200 MW Ilijan.

The Sta. Rita and San Lorenzo plants, operated by First Gas Power Corp., both provide power to Manila Electric Co., which in turn distributes the juice to consumers in Metro Manila and surrounding areas.

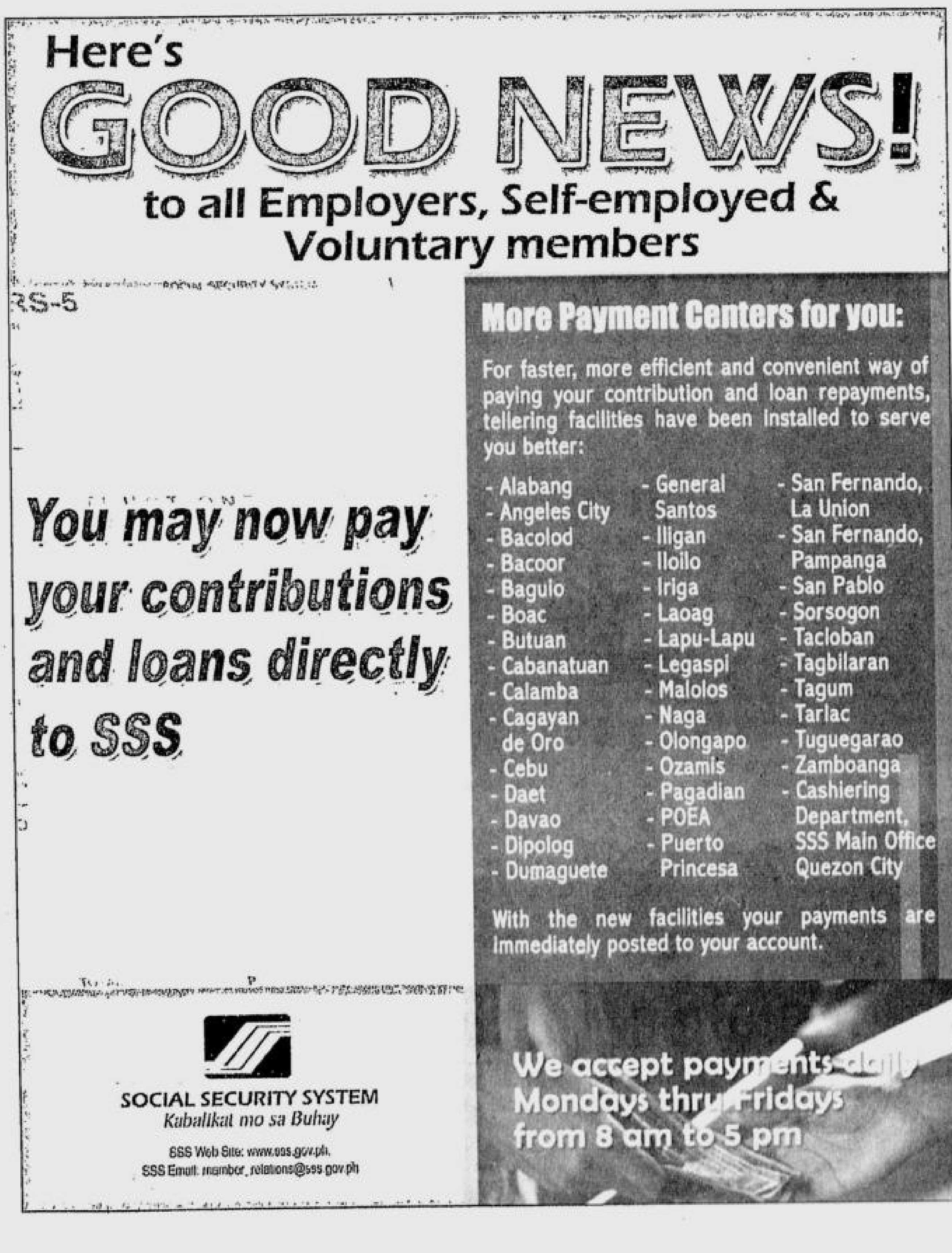
Facundo Roco, spokesperson for the Malampaya consortium, said the problem stemmed from a "technical error" at Malampaya itself.

"It was an operator error. Someone accidentally pressed the shutdown button for the valve going to First Gas so the gas stopped flowing," Roco said in a telephone interview.

First Gas, although ready with backup liquefied natural gas, still took a while to get its plants running again as the gas flow interruption happened so suddenly, said a company source.

Since it happened during the rush hour, most affected were thousands of commuters who were stranded inside the trains of the Edsa Metro Rail Transit-3 system between its Gil Puyat Ave. and North Ave. stations.

Traffic was further aggravated when signal lights went out and dinner took longer to get ready for the hungry people headed home.



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RS-5

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More vocal prelate to lead bishops starting today

LAGDAMEO

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE OF the Philippines (CBCP), heavily criticized by some quarters for the perceived vagueness of its stand on the current political crisis, will have a new and more vocal leader beginning today.

Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla will turn over the reins to Archbishop Angel Lagdameo of Jaro, Iloilo, during a meeting of the joint permanent council at the CBCP compound in Intramuros at 9 a.m.

A CBCP media advisory yesterday said there would be no formal turnover ceremony. While Lagdameo was supposed to begin his two-year term on Dec. 1 under the CBCP bylaws, Capalla told reporters he was stepping down earlier as he would be traveling to Australia and would be tied down afterwards to a conference on peace in Mindanao.

Capalla, 71, will be leaving a seemingly fragmented CBCP, under fire for refusing in its July 10 pastoral statement to join the clamor for President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down in the wake of election fraud charges against her.

In this respect, much is expected from his successor, who had criticized the failed impeachment of Ms Arroyo and the dispersal of a prayer rally led by three bishops.

Much of the criticism against the CBCP, some of which has come from members of the clergy, revolves around Capalla's laid-back attitude, partly blamed on his supposed closeness to the President.

Under Capalla's leadership, one priest complained that the country's 119 bishops were often left waiting for someone to speak on matters urgently needing their guidance and perspective.

Capalla supporters believe the observation was an unfair perception of the prelate's conciliatory—but never apologist—attitude.

"I did my best," the bishop told reporters yesterday. "I thought I served the Church. I served the bishops. I don't know how they will rate me. It's not important to me how they will remember me."

Capalla also sought to correct the impression that he was an Arroyo lackey, noting that he had also helped the Aquino, Ramos and Estrada administrations.

"It's only now that they think that I'm for Gloria," he said.

Critics feel Capalla failed to rise to the occasion, offering vague guidance to soothe the distressed faithful, especially when the country was beset with political scandals.

"This term has been challenged to address political issues," Capalla said. "But it is not the role of the bishops to respond to purely political issues. They have a moral dimension, that's why we were challenged to respond."

Capalla actually had another two-year term by CBCP tradition. But months before the CBCP assembly last July, he sent fellow bishops a letter announcing his irrevocable decision to step down at the end of his first term. He said he wanted to focus on his job at the Archdiocese of Davao.

During the plenary, bishops elected Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales who kept declining even after the third round of balloting.

The job then went to Lagdameo who, as the outgoing CBCP vice president, was the natural choice for Capalla's successor.

While a CBCP president's term is for two years, an incumbent has the option of continuing on to a second term, in which case, with the bishops voting only as a formality.

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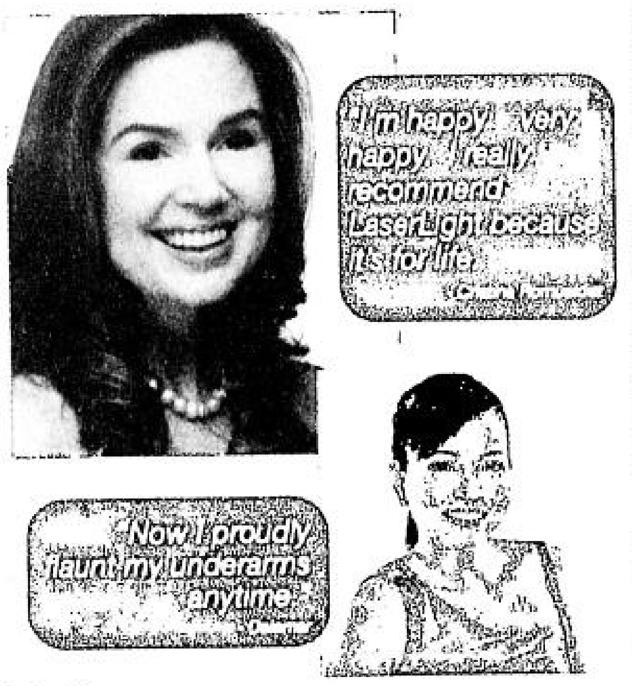
Now you can do whatever you want and wear just about anything (even the sexiest clothes and skimpiest swimsuits) without worrying about unwanted hair peeking out from unexpected places.

LaserLight is so quick and effective (treatment time for your underarms is as quick as 5 minutes!) many satisfied clients are now enjoying their soft, silky-smooth, hair-free skin. One of them, former actress turned restaurateur Cristina Gonzalez-Romualdez says, "I'm happy – very happy. I really recommend LaserLight because it's for life. You know, if you think about it...you'd be waxing for life, shaving for life...in the end you'd be spending the same thing. But this one's already for life, so it saves time and everything. Plus the results: *makinis...maganda...maputi.* It's really worth it."

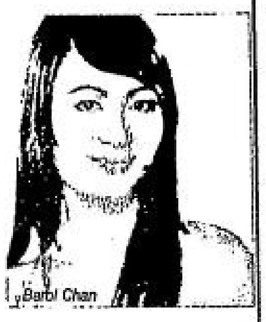
Popular disc jockey Delamar couldn't agree more: "With cold wax (which I used to remove my underarm hair before), I only get 5 days of hair-free underarms. After that, the hair starts growing back and I'm in trouble again. The time in-between waxing sessions is the worst. I couldn't wear sleeveless because I had to let the hair grow so I can wax it again. Luckily, with LaserLight, I don't have to go through all that. Now I proudly flaunt my underarms anytime."

Make-up Artist Barbi Chan recounts her own story: "I was obsessed with getting rid of my underarm hair. Waxing, plucking, threading...name it, I've done it. But they can't keep the hair gone for long and they even made my underarms dark, sometimes greenish in color. It really freaked me out! I used creams and different products to lighten my underarms but to no avail. That's why I was more than happy when I had LaserLight Hair Removal. It didn't only get rid of my unwanted hair for good – it also whitened my underarms! Now, even total strangers at the gym approach me and ask what I did to have such soft, white, hair-free underarms. They would even ask if they could take a closer look. I just raise my arms and proudly announce – I had LaserLight!"


I'm happy... very happy. I really recommend LaserLight because it's for life.
Now I proudly flaunt my underarms anytime.

"It didn't only get rid of my unwanted hair for good – it also whitened my underarms!" - Barbi Chan

"LaserLight is definitely 100% effective." - Isay Alvarez


Barbi Chan

Isay Alvarez

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SAMPLE COMPUTATION:

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Selling Price	P561,000.00*
15% Down Payment	P84,150.00
Loan Amount	P476,850.00
Loan Term	72 months
Interest Rate (APS**)	48.31%
Monthly Payment	P9,823.00

*The price of the Honda City is as of October 2005 and may change without prior notice.
**Advance Payment Scheme, where the first monthly payment is paid upon booking of the loan.

DOJ to serve subpoenas on 6 US Marines today

From page A1

go to the embassy," he added.

Gonzalez said Foreign Undersecretary Rafael Seguis had assured him that the suspects were still in the country.

The suspects were identified earlier as Keith Silkwood, Daniel Smith, Albert Lara, Corey Barris, Chad Carpenter and Dominic Duplamtis.

But in the criminal complaint filed by the victim, only five of the suspects were identified and only by their surnames—Carpenter, Smith, Barris, Lara and Silkwood. The sixth suspect was a John Doe.

"(The John Doe) wasn't identified at that time. That is why we are going to conduct an investigation," said Olongapo First Assistant City Prosecutor Raymund Viray, who will handle the case.

The identity of the victim has been withheld. She is described as a daughter of an Army soldier and a college graduate from Zamboanga City. She had visited Subic to accompany a stepsister who was meeting a boyfriend.

In the course of bar-hopping at the sprawling freeport on the night of Nov. 1, she was allegedly taken to a rented van, driven around and dropped off at the waterfront, intoxicated and practically naked.

FILIPINO WOMEN are NOT pigs! RESPECT OUR DIGNITY!
-PM Partido ng Manggag

A WOMAN demonstrator expresses her outrage over the rape of a Filipino woman allegedly by six American servicemen inside the Subic Bay Freeport.

REM ZAMORA

Incident sparks outrage

The Americans involved were identified by the driver of the van and the girl after she was treated at the Olongapo hospital. They were reportedly US Marines who had participated in the recent RP-US counterterrorism exercises.

The incident has sparked outrage among senators, congressmen and leftist and militant women's groups. Yesterday, around 100 members of various women's groups massed near the National Library on T.M. Kalaw Street in Manila after riot police prevented them from proceeding to the US Embassy to protest the rape.

Viray and Olongapo prosecutor Rudy Jalandoni met with Gonzalez and Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño at the DOJ yesterday.

"Upon the issuance of the subpoenas, the DFA will serve notice to the US Embassy, then their representatives will bring these people to us as per their commitment," Viray said.

"This is important to the Philippines. It is a public crime. It is a heinous crime. What makes it more important I think are the players involved in this criminal charge," he added.

Viray said he had 60 days to finish the preliminary investigation and determine if there was probable cause to file a case against the suspects in local courts.

"We cannot give you the exact number of days because the respondents are allowed 10 days to file counteraffidavits. They can file [for] an extension of time to do that or, after the filing of the counteraffidavits, the complainant may wish to reply so that would entail more time," he said.

Rape a heinous crime

Zuño warned that if the suspects decided not to appear before prosecutors, the preliminary investigation would still continue.

"If they don't want to appear before us, then that's their lookout," Viray said.

He said that there were no efforts to reconsider the rape charge, a heinous crime that could mean the death penalty for the suspects if they were convicted.

"It's rape. At this point, there's no so-called reconsideration of the crime to be charged. The charge is rape so we will proceed under the crime of rape in the investigation," Viray said.

Zuño said that the US Embassy could continue to have custody of the suspects during the preliminary investigation.

That would change only if the DOJ found probable cause and charged the suspects before the courts, which could then issue arrest warrants against them, he said.

If arrest warrants are issued and the suspects refuse to surrender, the Philippine government could file an extradition case against them, he added.

Gonzalez said he had also asked prosecutors to verify whether witness Timoteo Soriano, the driver of the van in which the victim was allegedly raped, wanted to join the DOJ's Witness Protection Program.

He said he had not received any official word that Soriano was retracting the sworn statement he had given earlier to investigators.

No whitewash

Both the US Embassy and Malacañang insisted that all parties were strictly adhering to the provisions of the Visiting Forces Agreement to prevent any whitewash.

"Let me say clearly that this is being handled under the Visiting Forces Agreement and under that agreement, we have the responsibility, which we are preparing, to make the accused available to Filipino investigators and any judicial process that may follow that," said US Chargé d'Affaires Paul Jones.

Jones yesterday accompanied James Kunder, assistant administrator for Asia and the Near East of the US Agency for International Development, to Malacañang to meet with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Jones said that the accused US Marines were discussing hiring a Filipino lawyer "to address the investigating authorities and the government side to the VFA Commission."

He said "the issue should be handled by a judicial procedure."

"Both the Philippines and the US share a strong interest in resolving this case through due process and the rule of law, and full in line with the VFA," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

"We are as indignant as any other Filipino over this incident, but emotional outbursts will help neither the victim nor the cause of impartial justice. There will be no whitewash in the investigation and we shall insist on our sovereign prerogatives," Bunye said.

De Castro's advice

Director General Arturo Lomibao of the Philippine National Police has instructed Chief Supt. Wilfredo Dulay, head of the PNP legal unit, to "coordinate closely" with SBMA and PNP investigators and the Olongapo prosecutor to establish an airtight case against those involved in the rape, a PNP statement said.

Vice President Noli de Castro yesterday urged the rape victim to reject any offers of settlement, saying justice must be meted out to those responsible for the crime.

"This will be a test case in the administration of justice in our country. If we cannot serve justice on those who will be proven to have wronged one of our own, we will become the laughingstock of the world," said De Castro.

De Castro, whose fitness to assume the presidency had been assailed by the US Embassy in Manila in a report to the US state department, said that he was confident the government would exercise sovereignty over the case.

De Castro welcomed the selection by US President George W. Bush of Kristie Anne Kenney as the first female US ambassador to the Philippines. He said he expected Kenney to be sympathetic to the plight of the rape victim, being a woman. *With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Cynthia D. Balana and Luige A. del Puerto in Manila; and Ansbert Joaquin and Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Mikey ends leave from Congress

By Michael Lim Ubac

DECLARING HE HAD BECOME closer to God, President Macapagal-Arroyo's controversial son returned to the House of Representatives yesterday, ending a 5-month official leave of absence triggered by allegations linking him to "jueteng," an illegal numbers game.

"I'm happy to be back. I miss you all here," said Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo.

He arrived in the congressional building with local officials of the second district of Pampanga, which he represents, in tow.

Wearing a black business suit, Arroyo warmly greeted early birds at the session hall.

"During my break, I became closer to my family, to God and my constituents," he told reporters. But he declined to comment on whether the worst was over for his mother, who was struggling to survive a severe political crisis when he left for the United States in June on what had been described in the media as a self-imposed exile.

"I don't want to answer that. All I know is I'm here to make sure the concerns of the district are addressed in the proposed national budget," Arroyo said.

Facing television cameras, he said he had returned to resume his duties and participate in the 2006 budget deliberations.

Arroyo said his return was a "mutual decision" between him and his mother.

Reflect and pray

While staying in the family property in San Francisco, California, Arroyo said he had a lot of time to "reflect and pray." He also attended to occasional visitors from Manila.

Arroyo initially returned home on Sept. 5 to celebrate his wife's birthday but left again for the United States shortly after, only to come back on Sept. 28—this time to celebrate his grandfather's birthday.

He never left again.

Arroyo took an official leave on June 14 after the opposition launched a Senate investigation into "jueteng" operations in the country.

One of the witnesses, confessed jueteng bagwoman Sandra Cam, claimed she once personally delivered P500,000 in jueteng money to Arroyo right in the halls of Congress. She alleged that she also delivered P400,000 to his uncle, the President's brother-in-law Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo.

Extended leave

The Arroyos have vehemently denied the accusation, calling it a fantastic fable intended to discredit the Arroyo administration.

Vowing to clear his name, Mikey took a leave from the House so as not to interfere in any congressional inquiry.

The family later said that Mikey and his father, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, who also left for the United States, decided to leave the country so that the President would not be distracted from her job.

In a statement yesterday, Mikey said he had an extended leave because he chose not to participate in last August's House debates on the impeachment cases filed against Ms Arroyo.

The President's supporters in the House used their numbers to crush the cases.

Defensor tells Samar environmentalists to file suit

From page A1

in Samar and allow SJTC to operate, but only Defensor heeded his request.

Selective logging

On Saturday, Enrile told the INQUIRER that his company would undertake "selective logging operations."

"We're not going to destroy the forest. We will preserve it," Enrile said. "We're not unscrupulous people who will just cut down trees right and left."

Defensor signed on Aug. 16 the order allowing SJTC to harvest timber within the protected area and even extended SJTC's permit by another 16 years despite the nationwide logging ban.

"It was my personal and professional commitment that there should be restitution. The government really erred. The continued moratorium was bereft of any legal basis," he said yesterday.

Defensor said past DENR chiefs, who either did not answer Enrile's letters or rejected the senator's request to lift the logging moratorium, should have cancelled SJTC's TLA if they were so sure that it violated the law.

"The TLA existed even before us. If they were so sure of their position, why didn't they just cancel the TLA?" he asked.

Moratorium

The DENR issued a logging moratorium from February to May 1989 to take inventory of the forests' extractive capacity. Subsequent DENR heads did not lift the moratorium and even worked to declare 333,000 hectares of the island as a nature park.

SJTC's logging area falls within the strict protection zone of the park, where no activity, even ecotourism, should be allowed to ensure the forests' recovery.

"I'm not looking at Enrile … but we found legal merit in his request. This is being given political color only because Senator Enrile owns the firm," he said.

Another company in northern Quezon has been allowed to continue harvesting timber because of an appeal from the Japanese Embassy to allow the firm to operate, he said. The company supplies boxes and chopsticks to Japanese restaurants.

Defensor said the discussion on logging in Samar was "moot and academic" because Enrile had indicated late last year that he was not interested in operating his company again but merely wanted the government to recognize his rights.

"The debate on logging is a figment of the imagination because they will not log anyway," Defensor said of Enrile's firm.

He said Samar, the third largest island in the archipelago, remained one of the poorest in the country because it refused to open itself up to logging and mining activities that could spur economic growth.

Why Samar is poor

"They continue to be poor because they don't recognize that sustainable mining and logging can be done," Defensor said.

Church and environment groups in Samar, along with the provincial government and regional development council, have united to block the resumption of logging on the island.

Samareños have contended that logging in the past decades had resulted only in the degradation of the forests and massive flooding. The infamous five-day flood of 1989 killed scores of people on the island.

Environmentalists and bishops claimed that the resumption of logging by Enrile's firm would hit a critical watershed inside the SINP and threaten the water supply to three provinces.

Defensor, however, said that even without SJTC operating, the locals have been poaching timber inside the nature park and were cutting trees despite the log ban.

"In the end, it will be the people who will decide whether SJTC can operate because the firm still needs local permits. As far as we're concerned, we've given SJTC restitution," he said.

PDI, Quiz Bee Foundation search for best schools

From page A1

For its 20th anniversary, the Philippine Daily Inquirer has partnered with the Quiz Bee Foundation to give 20 campus journalism workshops and 20 Guyito carabao sculptures to the top school in each of the 16 regions of the country and the four best schools in the National Capital Region.

"We've worked with the newspaper for eight years, but the INQUIRER wanted to do something special for its 20th anniversary," said Pettizou Tayag, official spokesperson and vice president of Quiz Bee Foundation.

Tayag said the foundation would identify 20 public high schools that deserve to be treated to campus journalism workshops to be conducted by INQUIRER editors and reporters.

Guyito, the official mascot of the INQUIRER, which had been translated into 20 carabao sculptures by Juan Sajid Imao and painted by 20 of the country's veteran and emerging artists, will also be given to the schools.

Guyito was created by former INQUIRER chief cartoonist Jess Abrera.

Elimination phase

"The 26th National Super Quiz Bee would have a series of school, district, division and regional eliminations before the grand finals in December," Tayag explained.

Every year, some 40,000 private and public schools enter the competition and four winners emerge in the following categories: Elementary Makabayan or Philippine History, Culture and Values champion; an Elementary Mathematics champion; a High School Science and Technology champion; and a Collegiate General Information and International Affairs champion.

But only the public high schools that excel in the science and technology category will qualify for the campus workshops and will receive the Guyito sculptures. The art work will be placed in the town museum or municipal hall where the schools are located, or on the schools' grounds themselves.

INQUIRER round

Tayag said the most difficult round in the high school science and technology category would be called the INQUIRER Round.

"Some of the questions in this round would be taken from past and present INQUIRER articles on science and technology," she said.

The INQUIRER recently revved up its science and technology page focusing on topics which would interest high school readers, she said.

Stakeholders

"Junior INQUIRER has been repositioned for the preschool and elementary children, while college students find the newspaper's website convenient and accessible," Tayag said.

High school students, she stressed, were the newspaper's major stakeholders.

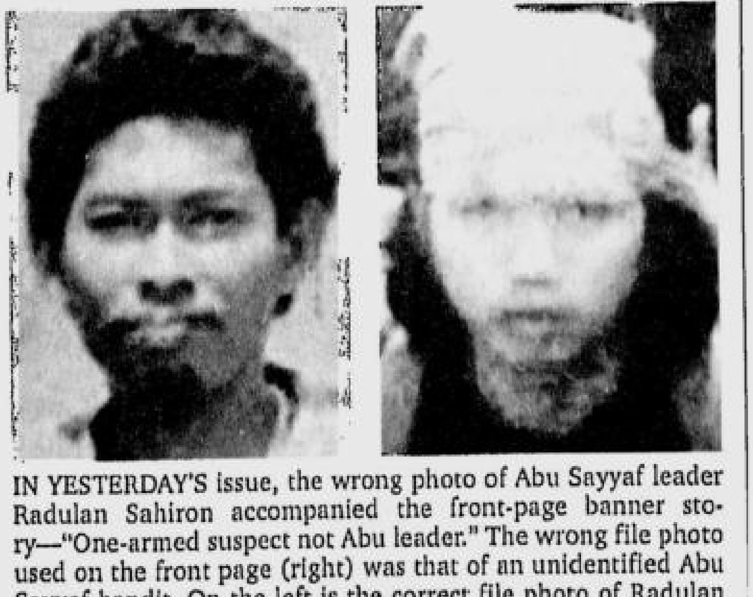
"We want to change the habits of high school students who tend to ignore newspapers and devote their time to reading only pocketbooks," Tayag said, adding that updating students on current events and providing them a background on politics and economic issues would better prepare them for college.

"The INQUIRER has articles on all these topics," she said.

The Quiz Bee, which began in 1977, is the longest running and most prestigious academic competition in the country with a mission to strengthen education through academic excellence and values formation.

Regional eliminations started last month, while the grand finals will be held in Tagaytay City on Dec. 10.

Correction



IN YESTERDAY'S issue, the wrong photo of Abu Sayyaf leader Radulan Sahiron accompanied the front-page banner story—"One-armed suspect not Abu leader." The wrong file photo used on the front page (right) was that of an unidentified Abu Sayyaf bandit. On the left is the correct file photo of Radulan Sahiron, alias Commander Putol.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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DROP THAT GUN, FATHER!

Church wants to strip chaplains of ranks, perks

By Christian V. Esguerra

"DROP THAT GUN, FATHER!"

It's not exactly tough being a chaplain in the police or military service – you get a competitive monthly salary, a service firearm, a handsome uniform and sure promotions.

But if a new proposal by some chaplains themselves were to be approved by Rome, all these perks would be lost to Catholic priests serving in the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla, outgoing president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), said he was awaiting an official letter from Bishop Leopoldo Tumulak of the Military Vicariate to formalize the proposal.

"It seems that joining the chaplaincy is just for convenience (for some priests)," Capalla told reporters, echoing the sentiments of not a few chaplains in the PNP and AFP. "It seems that the value of missionary work is absent in some priests."

Capalla said Tumulak had suggested that priestly work in the police and military be limited to the spiritual guidance of the men in uniform and, as such, chaplains should not be given service ranks.

The matter will be tackled during the joint assembly of the outgoing and incoming CBCP permanent councils tomorrow at the organization's headquarters in Intramuros, Manila.

When Archbishop Ramon Arguelles was the military vicar, Capalla said, he recruited men for the priesthood from within the AFP and PNP.

Chaplains receive salaries and other perks that go with being a law enforcer. Capalla acknowledged that all these had proved too tempting for many priests who applied to be chaplains.

There are at least 40 chaplains in the PNP at present.

In the police force, chaplains are even taught combat skills and are covered by the annual firearm proficiency test. Their service firearm is the 9-mm pistol, the same gun issued to regular policemen.

In a previous interview with the INQUIRER, Fr. Rey Urmeneta, head of the PNP Chaplain Service, said he received a monthly salary corresponding to his rank as a superintendent (or colonel in the military).

Since he was a career officer covered by the PNP law, he said he was under the PNP director general, even as he was also under the jurisdiction of the military vicar.

Capalla said the proposal by Tumulak and other chaplains would be endorsed by the CBCP, submitted to the Apostolic Nuncio in the Philippines Archbishop Antonio Franco, before being delivered to the Vatican for approval.

60 policemen attend US-sponsored seminar on int'l human trafficking

By Luige A. del Puerto

SOME 60 POLICE OFFICERS, MAJORITY OF them women, yesterday began a two-day training seminar on the laws and nature of human trafficking.

The seminar, held at the police national headquarters in Camp Crame, is sponsored by USAID and the United States Embassy in Manila.

It is designed to familiarize the police officers manning the Women and Children Concerns Desks (WCCD) with the provisions of Republic Act 9208, or the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003.

The training focuses on the "elements and evidence required to establish cases against offenders," a police statement said.

Philippine National Police chief Director General Arturo Lomibao noted that because of the clandestine nature of the crime, human traffickers linked to global syndicates are difficult to prosecute.

The police has acknowledged the gravity of the problem and has joined hands with government and private stakeholders in combating the crime, according to Lomibao.

The PNP, along with the departments of Justice, Foreign Affairs and Social Welfare, is a member of an inter-agency council mandated to implement the anti-trafficking law.

The United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, agreed upon in 2000, calls on nations to institute measures for the physical, psychological and social recovery of trafficking victims.

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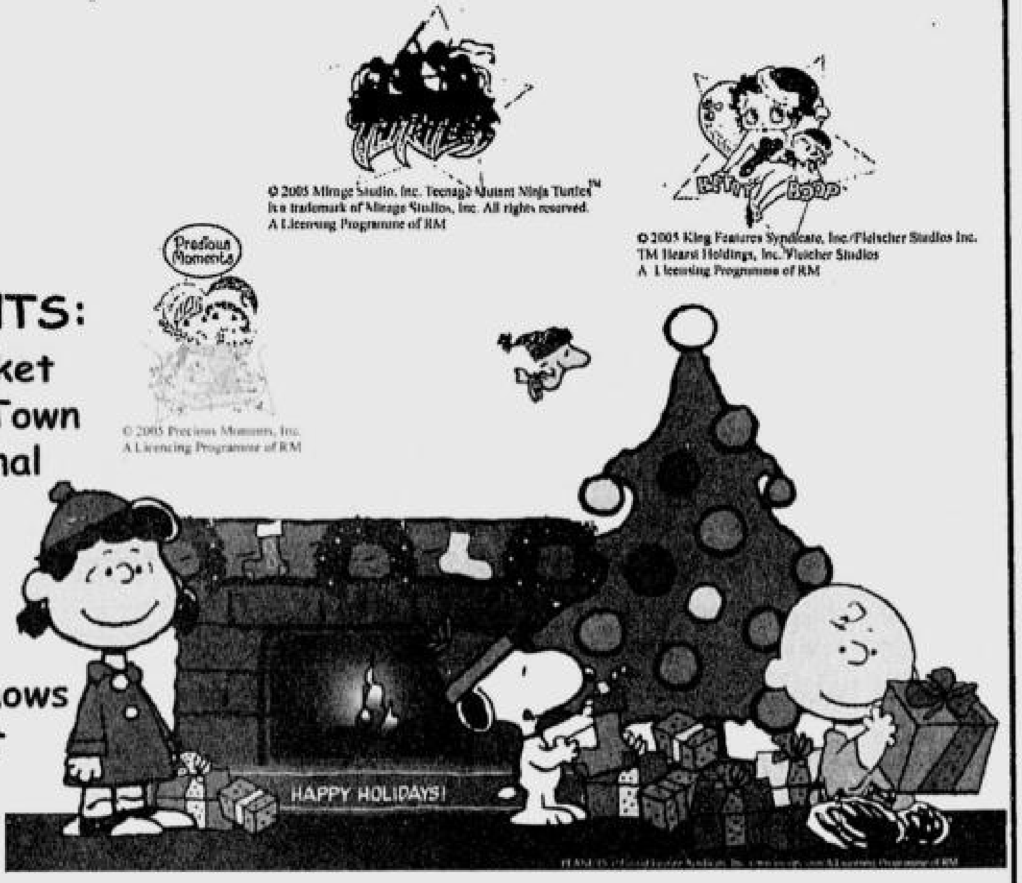
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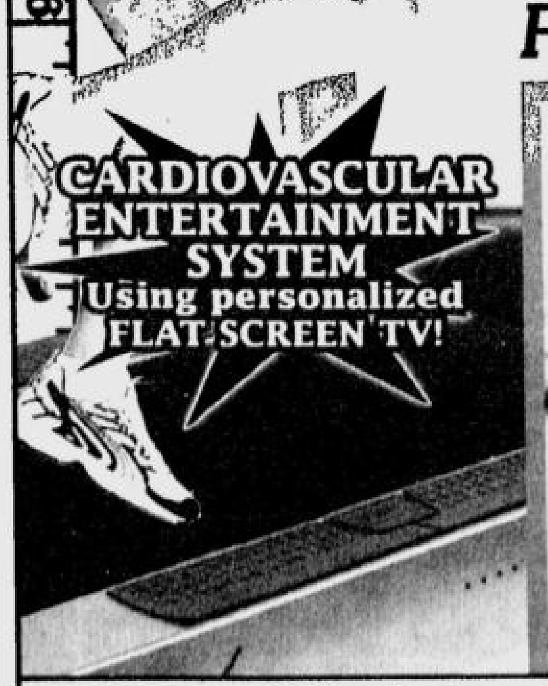
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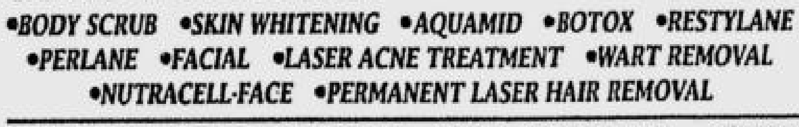

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Victim of wrongful ...

From page A1

was Commander Putol. I said I had nothing to do with that, I don't know that person," he said.

He insisted he had never been to Basilan or Jolo Island, where Sahiron is believed to be hiding.

Gara said he was blindfolded with packing tape and his hands were bound. At one point, he thought he would be executed.

Children were crying

After he was brought to Dipolog City, his captors took care to feed him and not maltreat him.

But back at home, Gara said he saw how traumatized his wife and children had become.

"That's my problem. My wife nearly had an attack of hypertension. They were held at gunpoint. My four children were crying so hard when I was arrested that they could hardly breathe," he said.

He said he heard on television that Ms Arroyo had issued an apology, but he added: "My family would not settle for just 'sorry.'" He said that if it were up to him, he would not file charges anymore because that would mean expenses.

"But my eldest child would not agree to let it pass. We are good people. A lot of people know us, even the governor who lives nearby, even our barangay captain who is like my brother," Gara said.

Excuse for GMA

"My wife, my family, my brothers and sisters, my cousins and even my neighbors would not let it pass. They really want me to file charges so (the police) would not do the same thing to another person."

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Malacañang expected PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao to take appropriate action against those concerned.

"You can be very sure that at his level, General Lomibao himself will conduct an investigation and give a stern sermon to whoever fed the wrong information," Bunye said in a transcript of a radio interview.

"I think they (the police) will be more circumspect in forwarding any news on field activities."

Bunye gave an excuse for the President's latest blunder.

"It's a natural reaction (to be excited by good news). But probably, the authorities will be more careful next time," he said.

"No intelligence work is perfect and even the sophisticated forces of other countries also make mistakes in their intelligence and other operations."

Senga taken in, too

Bunye tried to see things in a better light.

"It's just a matter of time. We might not be able to catch him now but we will eventually get Commander Putol."

Even Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga was apparently also taken in by the false PNP report. On Saturday, he told some reporters that Sahiron had been captured by "PNP operatives somewhere in Sulu."

Yesterday, Senga said that as far as the AFP knew, Sahiron was still in hiding in Sulu.

'Let's move on'

The PNP said it wanted to put the incident behind it.

"We want to move on as much as we can. We have said our piece about the matter, and we don't want our men to have a low morale," said PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil.

Lomibao indicated the PNP had learned its lesson.

"I told her (Ms Arroyo) the circumstances behind the incident and she accepted (my) apology," Lomibao said.

Asked if officers would be sacked, Lomibao said: "I don't think so because this was done in good faith."

Senior Supt. Rodolfo "Boogie" Mendoza, officer in charge of the project to capture Sahiron, shall remain with a special operations unit under the PNP chief, according to Lomibao.

Lomibao's promise

He added: "This should be the last time that this will happen. And we will remind our operatives to do the same before they report things like this, because this is a special type of operation and it has got to be 100 percent sure."

What happened, according to Lomibao, was that field operatives relied too much on an informant that they had used in the past.

While the operatives had no reason to doubt the source, Lomibao said they should not have been "too over-confident and too trusting."

Heads must roll

Ridicule from all sides of the political fence descended on Malacañang and the PNP.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. demanded the resignation of Ms Arroyo and her top police officials.

"Resignation is the answer," Pimentel told reporters.

Asked how Malacañang could avoid future gaffes, Pimentel said: "They should remove first the Commander-in-Chief ... This nation is greatly at risk from the continued bumbling presidency of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo."

Sen. Ramon Revilla Jr. said: "This doesn't sound comforting to us, especially when we pour in so much budget for the intelligence operation of our forces."

A former Moro National Liberation Front leader, who is now a member of the House of Representatives, called for the sacking of certain PNP officials.

"Heads must roll in the PNP," said Lanao del Sur Rep. Benasing Macarambon, vice chair of the House committee on national defense. *With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., TJ Burgonio and Norman Bordadora*

GMA backtracks on wage hike issue

From page A1

tracking from her earlier stand, Favila said: "It was just a case of miscommunication."

The trade secretary said the President "really wants wages increased if the regional wage boards find the last wage adjustment insufficient to meet the impact of the expanded VAT."

The RWBs, composed of representatives of workers, employers and the government, issued wage orders between May and July, raising by P6 a day the minimum wage in Central Mindanao (Region 12) and by P25 the minimum pay in Metro Manila.

The orders raised the minimum wage to P180 in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and to P325 in Metro Manila.

Allies in business

The President's economic managers and allies in business had warned against raising wages through legislation because it would be implemented across-the-board regardless of whether the industry or company could afford the higher pay.

They preferred the route via the RWBs because these could consider all factors prevailing in a specific area to justify a wage adjustment.

A legislated wage increase was also seen as untimely because it would jack up the unemployment rate.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita was the first to acknowledge the President's plan to push for a legislated wage increase on top of the July wage adjustment granted by the RWBs.

The President promptly confirmed this and asked Congress to make the legislated wage adjustment a priority bill.

Exemption from ban

Businessman Raul T. Concepcion said that should the RWBs find a need to increase wage rates soon due to the expanded VAT, the President would have to ask Congress for an exemption to the ban on more than one wage increase within 12 months.

Since RWBs are an extension of Congress' power to legislate, Speaker Jose de Venecia has declared that any talk on wage increases should be forwarded to the tripartite bodies, according to Favila.

In her speech before the Joint Business Meeting, Ms Arroyo reiterated calls for the business sector to look at the possibility of a legislated wage increase but corporate leaders said now was not the right time.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo chats with Trade Secretary Peter Favila (right) and PCCI president Donald Dee after the meeting with corporate executives. LYN RILLON

"I ask you to work with the labor sector and find a middle ground on a legislated minimum wage increase," Ms Arroyo said at a meeting with corporate executives at the Hotel Inter-Continental in Makati City.

She said the meeting was convened "upon my request."

Business leaders said they were not amenable to any wage increase considering that workers' minimum wages were increased by P15 a day three months ago.

"There is no reasonable amount for another (pay increase) right now," said Rene Y. Soriano, president of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines.

"Wages have already been increased last July," Soriano said. "Aside from that, we are facing higher costs because of the new value-added tax law and rising fuel prices."

Investors

He noted that minimum wages in the country were already higher than those in other countries, driving some investors away.

Donald G. Dee, president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), said wages had been increasing little by little over the past years.

"Companies have given pay hikes through collective bargaining agreements," Dee said. "Most firms are giving wages beyond the minimum."

Dee said the PCCI was committed to monitoring the wage situation and, depending on the findings, "maybe something (can be done) in the first half of 2006."

Jesus L. Arranza, president of the Federation of Philippine Industries, said wage increases should be left to the RWBs.

"What Congress can probably do is set a cap, which RWBs can use as a benchmark," Arranza said. "Wages can then be as high as or lower than the cap."

Bashing media

In her speech, the President also decried the way the media had been presenting the news, saying "the headline of the day can be unsettling and discouraging."

"Every molehill is treated like a mountain. Every accusation is treated as truth. Every piece of good news is stepped on by the bad," Ms Arroyo said.

She cited as an example what Dee had referred to as "the blurring of the long-term importance of the VAT law to our nation's strength."

"The easy manipulation of this issue by the destabilizers and the media who further their agenda is a case of Chicken Little screaming that the sky is falling," she said. "Well, the sky is not falling."

The President insisted that her administration's decision to raise taxes through the VAT "has already strengthened this nation and will provide more economic opportunity and job creation than any other single initiative we could have done."

Reiterating her desire to make the country a strong republic, she made known her position on a broad range of issues.

"I reject extremists' calls to isolate our nation from our friends and allies in the world. I reject extremists' calls that will junk the market system and create a controlled economy. I reject extremists' calls to overthrow our duly constituted government and entrust our fortunes to an unelected anti-capitalist dictator," she said.

She said she had put in place three strategies to realize "the vision of a modern Philippines" where in 20 years it will join the ranks of First World nations:

- Building strong macro-economic fundamentals and strict fiscal discipline so the government can balance the budget, improve the country's credit ratings, attract investments and have money to invest in infrastructure and people.
- Taking an aggressive campaign to reengage the country with the world through trade agreements and to ensure the people protection from terrorism.
- Fulfilling her 10-point propoor agenda.

Peso again the darling of Asian markets

From page A1

against the greenback on Monday.

Expectations of strong remittances heading into the year-end have bolstered the peso against a robust dollar even as other Asian currencies have weakened.

The government expects remittances from overseas Filipinos overseas to hit a record of about $10 billion this year—equivalent to at least 10 percent of gross domestic product (GDP)—compared to $8.5 billion in 2004,

Analysts say the strength of OFW remittances is partly due to an increased deployment of Filipinos in the Middle East.

The inflow of cash is expected to offset the negative impact of a widening trade gap.

The trade deficit is expected to swell to $8.3 billion this year from a deficit of $4.36 billion in 2004 as exports remain weak and the oil import bill rises, central bank documents released last month showed.

The Philippines imports nearly all of its oil.

"Remittances are growing at 20 percent year-on-year and that really allays fears about the balance of payments pressure, and at least current account pressure," said Tim Condon, head of research at ING.

VAT boost

The attraction of the peso is about more than strong remittances.

Analysts say VAT law, which came into force on Nov. 1 after a four-month delay due to legal challenges, helps explain renewed investor interest in the Philippines. The key stock index is at its highest level since mid-August.

The VAT law, which ends sales tax exemptions on a variety of items, is expected to go a long way to cutting the budget deficit, one of the main factors behind the peso's weakness in the past.

The government expects a budget deficit this year of 3.4 percent of GDP, down from 3.9 percent in 2004.

"On the back of the VAT, more interest has been coming back into the equity market," said Baig at Deutsche Bank. "There is a general turnaround in foreign investor inflows into the country."

A focus on interest rate differentials is also working in favor of high-yielding currencies like the peso, according to dealers.

Philippine interest rates were raised for a second consecutive month in October to contain inflation.

With the overnight borrowing rate at 7.50 percent and the lending rate at 9.75 percent, interest rates in the Philippines are higher than in much of Asia.

The peso may end the year on a strong footing, but it would take further improvements in the country's fiscal position before a real turnaround is seen in the currency's easier trend since the 1997/98 Asian financial, according to analysts.

Any spike in inflation, running at 7.0 percent, or a return to political strife could also unsettle the peso.

"Politics is always the wild card," said Euben Paracuelles, an economist at DBS Bank in Singapore. "But people are generally looking beyond the political noise and at the fundamentals of the country, which are holding up well." *Reuters*

Chilean police arrest ex-Peru leader Fujimori

From page A1

who was told by Chile's Supreme Court to consider Peru's request for Fujimori's extradition.

Police picked up Fujimori at the Marriott Hotel here, and the fugitive from Peruvian justice did not resist, according to police sources.

Fujimori arrived unannounced in Chile on Sunday to defiantly press his bid for the Peruvian presidency. *(See related story in The World, Page A8).*

"I plan a temporary stay in Chile as part of a return to Peru to keep a promise with a large part of the people of Peru that has called me to participate as a candidate for the presidency of Peru in the 2006 election," Fujimori said in a statement before his arrest.

Extradition request

Police said Fujimori would be held pending a decision on Peru's extradition request. After his private plane from Tokyo made a brief stopover in Mexico, Fujimori arrived in Chile with a tourist visa and headed for his hotel.

Japan has refused to extradite the former Peruvian leader to Lima because Fujimori, the son of Japanese emigrants to Peru, is considered a Japanese national.

Chilean presidential front-runner Michelle Bachelet said: "I am wondering, like all

FUJIMORI

Chileans, what has this gentleman come to Chile for? I think he ought to be arrested as soon as possible because there is an international arrest warrant out for him."

In Lima, President Alejandro Toledo convened an emergency Cabinet meeting to discuss the situation.

"One cannot put it any other way: The government is concerned," said Gustavo Pacheco, chair of the congressional foreign relations commission.

Peru's ambassador in Santiago, Jose Antonio Meyer, had swiftly delivered an official note to the Chilean government seeking "the detention and eventual extradition of fugitive from Peruvian justice Alberto Fujimori," Peru's chief of staff Pedro Pablo Kuczynski announced in Lima.

Some 1,500 people rallied in support of Fujimori in Lima; a video played at the event also made clear Fujimori's desire to seek reelection. But outside the Chilean ambassador's residence anti-Fujimori demonstrators chanted "Chilean brothers, hand over the thief" and "Toss out the rat."

Fujimori served as Peru's president from 1990 until 2000 when he fled the country under a massive cloud of scandal and resigned by fax from a Tokyo hotel. He has lived in Japan since.

He faces about 20 legal cases in Peruvian courts.

Sensitive moment

Fujimori arrived in Chile at a sensitive moment as Santiago and Lima were mired in a maritime border dispute.

On Friday, the legislature in Lima passed a bill claiming a larger part of rich Pacific Ocean fishing waters as part of Peru's territory. Toledo signed the measure into law that was to take effect over the weekend.

Chile has expressed its opposition to losing some 35,000 sq km of prime fishing waters and has said its military would continue to patrol the area.

"Fujimori's lawyers suggested he enter through Chile to take advantage of a conflict between the two countries over the maritime border," Peruvian legislator Alcides Chamorro said in Lima.

A Chilean presidential source acknowledged privately that Fujimori "took us by surprise; we are at a very delicate point in the search for a diplomatic solution to our differences with Peru."

Former Peruvian Speaker Antero Flores-Araoz called Fujimori's move "defiant and provocative."

But Martha Chavez, a former legislator and head of a pro-Fujimori group in Lima, was "enormously pleased that the president was so close to Peru."

Peru's government has repeatedly asked Japan to extradite Fujimori for trial on corruption charges. Recently, Lima said it would ask the World Court in The Hague to compel Japan to extradite him.

Lima has also asked the Interpol to arrest Fujimori in connection with crimes during his presidency, the murders of political opponents and a payment of $15 million to his spymaster, Vladimiro Montesinos, who is in a Peruvian prison for corruption.

Peru's presidential election is set for April 9, 2006.

Peru's Justice Minister Alejandro Tudela has slammed Fujimori's electoral plans as "a challenge to the rule of law and Peruvian sovereignty." Lawmakers have barred Fujimori from seeking public office until 2010. *AFP*

Erap wants to attend Ateneo class reunion

From page A1

charges in the antigraft court's special division.

In a motion, Saguisag said the celebration, to be highlighted by a concert featuring members of the 1955 high school class, would be held on Nov. 15 at the Meralco Theater on Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City.

Saguisag presented to the court the invitation letter sent to Estrada by class members. Antonio Lopa had signed the letter.

Happy memories

"This is an affair that comes only once every 50 years. High school, in the memory of many people, represents the best in their lives, crowded with happy memories, when bonding and friendship that last a lifetime are formed," Saguisag said.

Estrada was expelled from Ateneo High School in his sophomore year after he figured in a fight with an American classmate, Patrick Hilton. Estrada had accused Hilton of bullying his friends and challenged him to a fist fight.

Hilton, who was also expelled, left the country, while Estrada transferred to the Mapua Institute of Technology where he went on to college, taking an engineering course. He did not finish college but went on to become an actor.

Precious few

Saguisag noted that Estrada was already 69 years old and "his years continue to dwindle to a precious few." He said his client earnestly hoped that he would be permitted to attend the affair.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said the prosecution was opposed to Estrada attending the class reunion due to security reasons and the huge cost it would entail.

The government spends at least P250,000 whenever Estrada is moved from detention at his sprawling rest house in Tanay, Rizal, to anywhere in Metro Manila, according to Villa-Ignacio.

The court's special division, speaking through Presiding Justice Teresita de Castro, gave Villa-Ignacio three days to formally reply to Saguisag's motion.

Also yesterday, Saguisag reiterated the defense team's motion that the court set bail for Estrada or allow his transfer to his house on Polk Street in San Juan, Metro Manila.

Saguisag was responding to the prosecution team's filing on Oct. 28 of an opposition to his motion for bail.

AVIAN FLU ADVISORY

Education, Health execs tell students: Don't touch that bird

By Alcuin Papa

"IT MAY BE CUTE, BUT DON'T touch that bird."

The Department of Education has told school officials not to let their students play with or in any way come into contact with any birds, whether dead or alive, as a precaution against the avian flu.

DepEd Director for Health and Nutrition Dr. Thelma Santos said the warning had come from the Department of Health.

"Whatever our advisories are, they are based on advisories issued by the DOH. So we advice students not to play with their pet birds or any bird for that matter," Santos said.

Santos also advised teachers to be extra careful when their students were out on field trips, especially in areas where birds, especially migratory ones, might be present.

But she stressed that she was not advocating a ban on field trips.

"A ban would not be good. We know that field trips have educational value and migratory birds make interesting subjects. But they (teachers and students) have to keep distance from the birds. They must be careful," Santos said.

She said that all past advisories issued to schools on the SARS virus, dengue and meningococcemia threats were still in effect.

Santos reiterated her advice to teachers to constantly monitor the physical condition of their students.

"We have advised teachers to be vigilant on the status of the health of their students," Santos said.

During the ongoing Educators Congress in Davao City, Santos said the DepEd was working with the DOH on an official advisory on the bird flu virus to be issued to schools.

A national task force on the bird flu headed by the DOH and the DepEd has been created to meet the avian flu threat.

Santos said the advisory would aim to create awareness of the disease among teachers and students. An awareness program would be patterned after the awareness programs of the DOH and the DepEd on SARS, dengue and meningococcemia.

EDUCATORS' CONGRESS

DepEd to retrain teachers in English, science, math

By Alcuin Papa

DAVAO CITY – THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUcation plans to retrain public elementary and high school teachers to improve their proficiency in the key subjects of English, science and math, which has degenerated over the years and has been identified as a major factor for the low academic performance of Filipino public school students.

Investing in teacher welfare and development and elevating teacher training programs were among the major reforms which DepEd Officer-in-Charge Dr. Fe Hidalgo said at the 2005 Educators Congress the department will pursue in 2006.

Other major thrusts identified by Hidalgo include the computerization of schools to expose students in the countryside to the Internet, de-clogging classrooms by transferring deserving public school students to private schools, acquisition of additional textbooks and the construction of more classrooms.

Some 2,000 education officials, school administrators, and teachers from both public and private elementary and secondary schools are attending three-day conference and workshops.

According to Hidalgo, the DepEd is proposing to spend P1.96 billion in the coming school year to fund the transfer of deserving students to private schools nationwide under the Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education (GASTPE) program.

It also plans to spend P1.8 billion in new textbooks for English and Makabayan subjects, Hidalgo said, adding that P1.64 billion was being allocated for its school feeding program ensure pupils in economically depressed areas attend classes. Hunger and malnutrition have been identified as a major causes of absenteeism and dropping out.

Other allocations include P581 million for teacher training, specifically for English proficiency and science; and P250 million for the computerization of schools.

Hidalgo told reporters last week that more than half of the country's 458,282 public school teachers have had little or no training in science, math, and English. This lack of mastery was even more acute in math and science.

"Only 25% of math and science teachers actually trained in their respective areas of instruction," she said. "The teachers' lack of training in the instruction of core subjects like science, math and English has affected the learning skills of the students."

In the National Achievement Test for school year 2004-2005, public elementary pupils obtained low averages of 59 percent in math and English, and 54 percent in science. The passing average is 75 percent. The mean percentage scores of public high school students were also below the passing mark.

In her speech at the congress, Hidalgo said that reforms such as DepEd's Schools First Initiative, the School Feeding program, programs for handicapped children and those living in areas of conflict, teacher training and reading programs for children, have begun to show results.

In the elementary level, Math scores jumped from 45 percent in 2003 to 59 percent in 2005, science scores from 44 percent in 2003 to 54 percent and 2005, and English scores from 42 percent to 59 percent for the same periods.

"Although we have not reached mastery levels here, as we never expected to reach mastery levels in such a short period of time, we see that happening soon, so much earlier than we had expected," Hidalgo said.

In the secondary level, NAT scores also improved, with math from 46 percent in 2004 to 51 percent in 2005, English from 50 percent to 51 percent and science from 37 percent to 39 percent. Part of the reason for smaller margin of improvement in the secondary level, Hidalgo explained, was the underspending in education and overcrowding in public schools.

She said the DepEd had also managed to bring down shortages in classrooms (from 17,873 in 2004 to 8,684 in 2005), classroom seats (3.9 million in 2004 to 2.24 million in 2005) and textbooks (34.7 million in 2004 to 26.85 million in 2005).

Hidalgo lamented that 88 percent of the department's budget, which is proposed at P119 billion for 2006, goes to salaries, leaving little for new classrooms, teacher training, libraries, new textbooks, repair and maintenance and other things that schools need.

She said the Philippines spends only 12 percent of what Thailand spends and two percent of what Japan spends for each child in their public school systems.

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Attention Ateneo de Zamboanga jubilarians

THE JESUIT-RUN Ateneo de Zamboanga University will honor its golden jubilarians this year – High School Class 1955 – during its homecoming celebration on Dec. 2 to 4, 2005 in Zamboanga City.

For more information, the jubilarians are requested to contact lawyer Domingo "Gues" Doroja in Manila at tel. 726-78-30, or cellphone 0917-528-55-60; and Chot Shinn (cellphone 0921-212-56-47), or Vinnie Atilano (cellphone 0917-722-47-22) in Zamboanga City.

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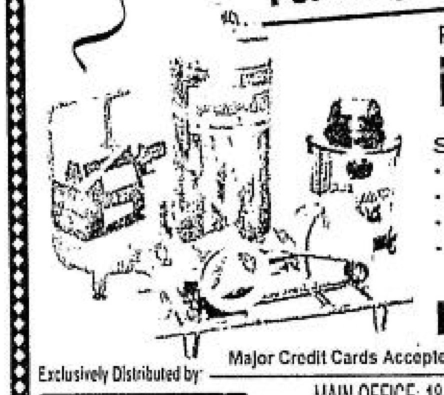

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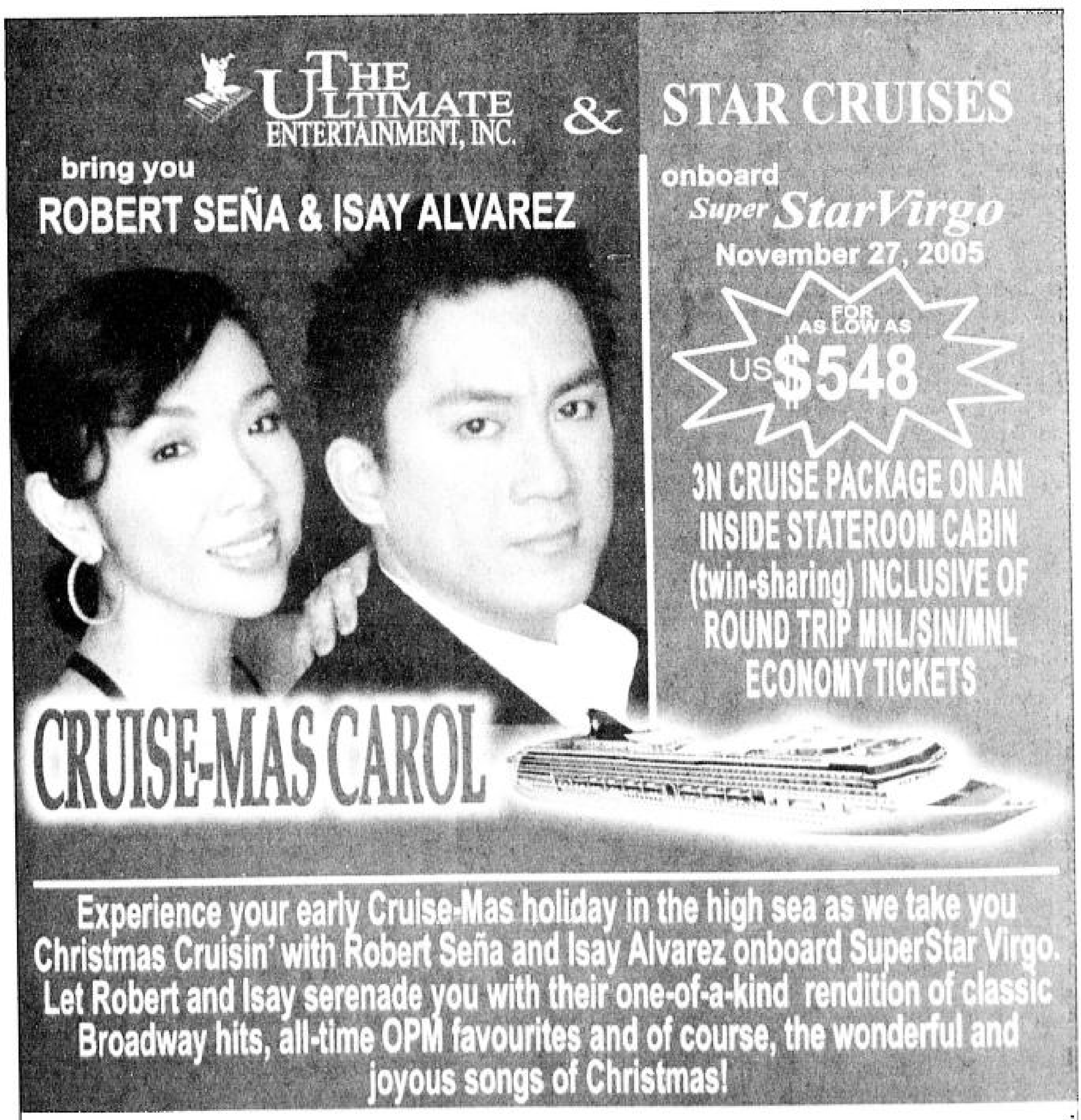

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

France's worst night: Youths fire on cops, 1,408 cars torched

PARIS—YOUTHS FIRED AT POLICE AND HURLED flaming Molotov cocktails at churches, schools, cars and a daycare center in an 11th night of violence in France, sending a "shock wave across the country," the national police chief said Monday.

Vandals burned 1,408 vehicles across France, setting a new high for overnight arson attacks since the unrest started Oct. 27, Michel Gaudin told a news conference. The figure was an increase from the 1,295 vehicles torched the night before.

"We are witnessing a sort of shock wave that is spreading across the country," Gaudin said, noting that the violence appeared to be sliding away from Paris and worsening elsewhere in France.

Police arrested 395 people across the country, he said.

Ten riot police were injured by youths firing fine-grain birdshot in a late-night clash in the southern Paris suburb of Grigny, national police spokesperson Patrick Hamon said. Two were hospitalized but their lives were not in danger.

It was the first time police were injured by weapons fire since the unrest started nearly two weeks ago.

The violence came in open defiance to a warning by French President Jacques Chirac who pledged to clamp down on the troublemakers.

"The law must have the last word," Chirac said Sunday after a security meeting with top ministers, making his first public address on the riots. France is determined "to be stronger than those who want to sow violence or fear, and they will be arrested, judged and punished."

Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin promised speeded up trials for rioters and extra security during France's worst civil unrest in at least a decade.

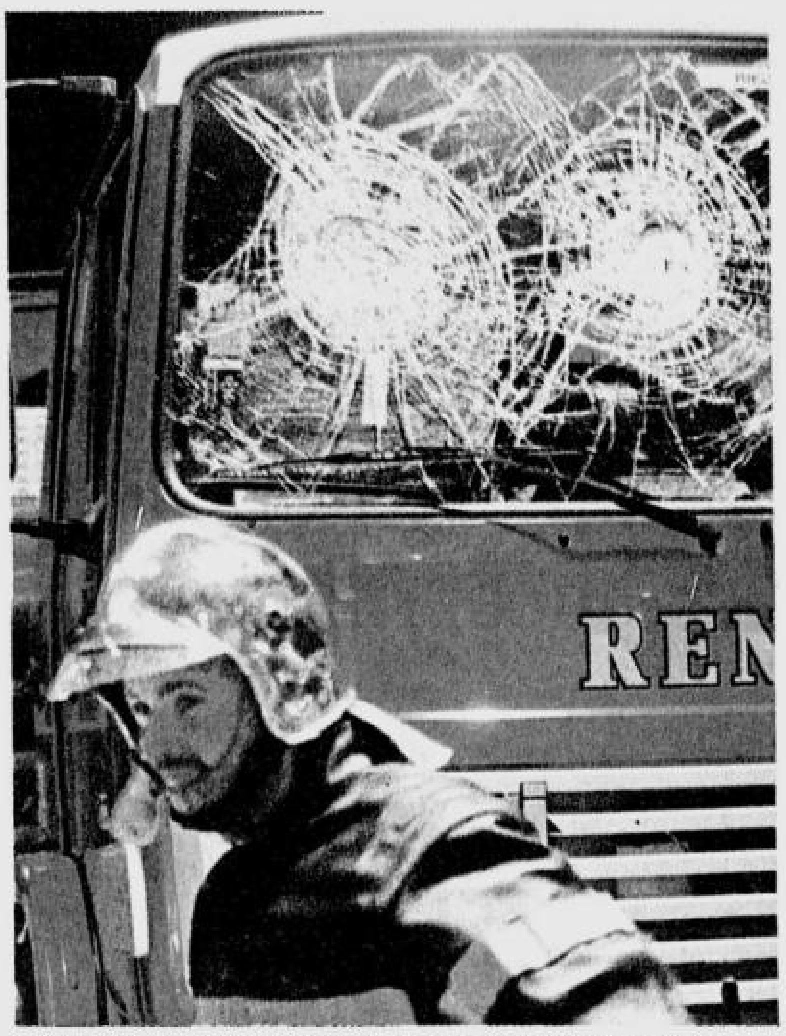
Australia became the latest country to issue a travel warning, joining the United States and Russia in warning citizens to stay away from violence-hit areas.

The unrest began Oct. 27 in the low-income Paris suburb of Clichy-sous-Bois, after the deaths of two teenagers of Mauritanian and Tunisian origin. The youths were accidentally electrocuted as they hid from police in a power substation. They apparently thought they were being chased.

From an outburst of anger in suburban Paris housing projects, the violence has fanned out into a nationwide show of disdain for French authority from youths, including the children of Arabs and black Africans angered by high unemployment, poor housing and discrimination.

The country's biggest Muslim fundamentalist organization, the Union for Islamic Organizations of France, issued a fatwa, or religious decree. It forbade all those "who seek divine grace from taking part in any action that blindly strikes private or public property or can harm others."

Arsonists burned two schools and a bus in the central city of Saint-Etienne and its suburbs, and two people were injured in the bus attack. Churches were set ablaze in northern Lens and southern Sete, he said. The extent of damage was not yet clear. *AP*



A FIREMAN passes by his damaged vehicle as riots broke out in a sensitive neighborhood Nov. 6 in the France south western city of Toulouse. French President Jacques Chirac said that reestablishing law and order in suburbs where rioting has raged for more than a week is a "priority" for his government. AFP

Bomb attack on Somali PM convoy kills 6

MOGADISHU—A BOMB EXPLOSION tore through a convoy of cars carrying Somalia's prime minister in Mogadishu on Sunday killing six, medical sources said, in an attack described by diplomats as an attempt to wreck a fragile peace process.

Prime Minister Mohamed Ali Gedi was unhurt but the blast sharply raised tensions in a city controlled largely by his political foes. Government aides said a land mine caused the explosion.

Unidentified assailants threw a hand grenade under Gedi's car as it passed seconds before the land mine blast in an apparently coordinated attack, a government source said.

The blast set ablaze at least one vehicle among several that were ferrying Gedi and one of his deputies from an airstrip to the lawless Indian Ocean city.

"Five seconds after the blast, there was an exchange of fire, I don't know who between," a wounded man who had been riding in the convoy told Reuters from his hospital bed.

"The tires on our car were shredded by bullets."

Gedi had flown in from his headquarters north of the capital to try to hold talks with a dissident faction of ministers based in Mogadishu to end a rift in the government that has stirred fears of renewed civil war in the chaotic Horn of Africa nation.

"This was an apparent attempt at disrupting the effort at consolidating the outcome of the reconciliation conference," Mohammed Ali Faum, the African Union envoy to Somalia, said of the peace talks where Gedi's government was formed.

Six people were killed in the blast, medical sources said, and a government source said four of the six had been burnt beyond recognition. Most of the dead were believed to be Gedi's bodyguards. About 20 people were wounded. *Reuters*

Bush challenges clout of Chavez, Castro in LatAm

BRASILIA—US PRESIDENT George W. Bush on Sunday ramped up his efforts to curb Venezuela and Cuba's clout in Latin America, accusing them of trying to "roll back" fragile democratic and free-market gains in the region.

Amid concerns in Washington that poverty may enhance the appeal of anti-US, economically populist messages, Bush said in a speech that "ensuring social justice for the Americas requires choosing between two competing visions."

"One offers a vision of hope. It is founded on representative government, integration into the world community, and a faith in the transformative power of freedom," he told students, diplomats and business leaders.

"The other seeks to roll back the democratic progress of the past two decades by playing to fear, pitting neighbor against neighbor and blaming others for their own failures to provide for their people," he said.

He never named Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez or Cuban leader Fidel Castro, White House aides tacitly acknowledged that they were the targets of what was the keynote speech of a five-day, three-country trip to the region.

Bush, making his first ever visit to Brazil, also celebrated US ties with the region's richest economy despite opposition here to his vision for a mammoth hemispheric free trade zone stretching from Canada to Chile.

After talks with Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Bush bowed to his host's view that successful World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations have to precede new talks on creating the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

Bush left Brasilia shortly thereafter and was on the way to Panama, the last leg of his Latin American tour. *AFP*

Chinese president calls renewable energy 'a must'

BEIJING—CHINESE PRESIDENT Hu Jintao and US and European officials called Monday for a sharp rise in the world's use of solar and other nonpolluting power sources as they opened an international meeting on renewable energy.

Some 1,200 delegates from 80 countries joined Chinese leaders at the Great Hall of the People, the seat of China's legislature in central Beijing, to discuss using solar power, wind energy and hydropower instead of coal and oil.

"Strengthening the development and use of renewable energies is a must for us to address the increasingly serious energy and environmental issues," Hu said in a statement that was read to the conference by Vice Premier Zeng Peiyan.

Participants in the conference included European Cabinet ministers and US Energy Department officials.

China, the world's second-biggest producer of greenhouse gases after the United States, has promoted cleaner and renewable energy in hopes of reducing air pollution from its surging fossil fuel use and the potential security risks of growing dependence on imported oil.

The government says China relies on renewable energy for 7 percent of its needs but wants to raise that to 15 percent by 2020. *AP*

Experts meet to draw up battle plan to halt bird flu

GENEVA—HEALTH EXPERTS meet on Monday to draw up a global strategy to halt the spread of deadly bird flu and prevent it from developing into a human pandemic in which millions could die.

The deadly H5N1 virus is known to have killed 63 people in four Asian countries and led to the culling of 150 million birds worldwide. It has recently been detected in birds in eastern Europe and experts expect it to reach the Middle East and Africa in the near future.

The virus remains hard for people to catch and is passed on almost exclusively through human contact with birds.

But scientists say it is steadily mutating and could acquire changes that make it easy to spread from human to human, potentially triggering a pandemic in which millions could die and the global economy could be crippled.

The senior UN coordinator for avian and human influenza, David Nabarro, told Reuters he expects health and veterinary officials to draw up a sweeping plan against the disease during three days of talks hosted by the World Health Organization.

A global program would mean investing in veterinary services, boosting human disease surveillance, scientific cooperation on vaccine development as well as negotiations with drug companies on access to existing antivirals, he said.

Nabarro also said that as part of the plan, the World Bank would propose setting up a fund to help both countries and agencies respond to the crisis.

"I think there is a reasonably good chance ... that people will congeal around a set of basic principles and elements for what will become an international program which can then be presented to the donor community over the next couple of months," Nabarro told Reuters in an interview.

"The actual pledging, I understand, will take place in the new year ... That is definitely in the plans," he added.

Jim Adams, the World Bank's chief for operations policy and country services who will make a financial presentation to the talks on Wednesday, has said a trust fund would require initial donations of $300 million to $500 million to help countries set up programs.

Experts say the virus must be stopped in poultry to prevent more people catching it and nowhere is that fight more crucial than in densely populated Asia, where farmers and even city dwellers live side-by-side with poultry and other livestock.

There are also fears that the virus could spread rapidly if it takes hold in Africa's rural hinterlands where similar living conditions exist. *Reuters*

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Fujimori surprises Japan to the end

By Harumi Ozawa

TOKYO—PERU'S FUGITIVE FORmer President Alberto Fujimori kept Japan guessing to the end, leaving the country of his ancestors as suddenly as he arrived almost exactly five years ago.

Fujimori, determined to run in the presidential election in Peru in April 2006 despite a looming arrest warrant, left behind his safe haven late Sunday and flew unannounced in a private jet to Chile.

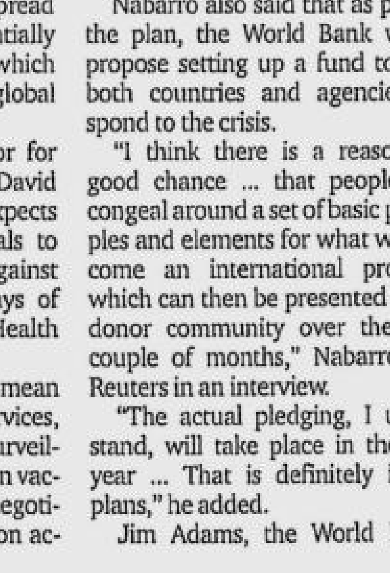
Fujimori, 67, is a divisive figure in Peru but a cause celebre among conservatives in Japan, which had adamantly refused to extradite him.

He may wish he had stayed in Japan. Within hours of arriving in Santiago, he was taken away by police from the Marriott Hotel.

The former leader was detained on an arrest warrant issued by a judge who had been told by Chile's Supreme Court to consider Lima's request for Fujimori's extradition lodged hours earlier.

Japan's conservative Chief Cabinet Secretary Shinzo Abe said Monday that the government which had welcomed Fujimori in 2000 only knew of his departure through media reports.

"The government is currently confirming he left Japan, although we are not in the position to make comments about it," Abe said.



FUJIMORI AFP

Jiji Press news agency said the Japanese Embassy in Lima was taken by surprise and had not expected Fujimori to leave so soon. He risks prosecution in Peru over state-sponsored killings and corruption.

"We knew something was cooking," a diplomat in Tokyo said on condition of anonymity. "The situation was getting to be too much. I don't think the Japanese government really liked having a hot potato like this."

The controversial former Peruvian strongman has always sprung surprises on Japan.

Facing a corruption scandal at home, he used the opportunity of an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in Brunei in November 2000 to fly to Tokyo and claim Japanese nationality, on account of his parents who emigrated to Peru in the 1930s.

As the crisis deepened, Fujimori resigned after 10 years in power simply by sending a fax from his Tokyo hotel to the government in Lima.

He has been in limbo ever since. He resided in a high-end Tokyo hotel owned by his Japanese girlfriend and hobnobbed with nationalist politicians.

In September he showed up at Peru's small embassy in Tokyo to pick up a new passport, waiting in line with the others and presenting his birth certificate.

Fujimori is wanted in Peru both on charges he was behind the killing of 25 suspected Maoist rebels and in connection with a vast corruption scandal.

Japan refused to extradite him, saying he was one of its nationals. He earned Tokyo's gratitude in 1997 when he negotiated and then sent in commandos to end a siege of the Japanese Embassy in Lima by leftist rebels.

Yasuhiro Okuda, professor of law school at Chuo University, said Fujimori could only have been extradited had he violated international law such as genocide. *AFP*

India, Pakistan open border to ease quake aid

PAKISTANI Brig. Tahir Raza Naqvi (left) shakes hands with his Indian counterpart A. K. Bukashi during the Titrinote border opening ceremony. AFP

ON THE LINE OF CONTROL—PAKISTAN and India opened their frontier in divided Kashmir for earthquake relief on Monday, raising hopes of a lasting settlement of their corrosive decades-old dispute over the territory.

Army commanders and government officials from the two sides met at the Line of Control (LoC), the de facto border that has divided the Himalayan region since the late 1940s, and shook hands before declaring the crossing point open.

Indian and Pakistani porters then began unloading the trucks and handed the supplies to each other on the Pakistani side, the first time ever that a shipment of relief had crossed the heavily militarized frontier.

"This is a huge day in the history of both Kashmir and the subcontinent," Sardar Mohammed Farooq, the deputy commissioner of Pakistani Kashmir who represented the Pakistani side, said.

"It has given us all a new ray of hope."

Indian officials said they were sending 25 truckloads of relief to the Pakistani side—worst hit by the Oct. 8 quake, which killed more than 74,000 people—including tents, tarpaulins, food and medicine.

White tape had earlier been laid along the LoC at the crossing—Titrinote on the Pakistani side and Chakandabagh in the Indian zone—and both sides had laid out red carpets.

A sign on the Indian side read, "We have not opened the LoC, we have opened hearts."

Kashmiris themselves were not allowed to cross the frontier as originally hoped when Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf first proposed the border opening last month, since lists of their names have not yet been exchanged.

But B.R. Sharma, divisional commissioner for the Jammu district of Indian Kashmir, said after shaking hands with Pakistan's Farooq at the ceremony that civilians may be able to cross by Nov. 14.

"It's definitely a very historic and very important moment," he told reporters.

Several hundred villagers on the Pakistani side lined up about 200 yards away from the crossing point and cheered loudly when they saw the first relief goods being exchanged.

At least two more crossing points along the frontier are due to open within the next week.

Indian and Pakistani troops have had to clear minefields around the site, a legacy from the decades of hostilities in Kashmir.

They have set up symbolic gateposts on either side as well as four large tents as an entry point, while the Indian army has established a surgery ward and emergency hospital nearby.

Officials on both sides including Musharraf have said it could have peace dividends beyond the immediate benefits to quake victims.

Brigadier Tahir Naqvi, the officer in charge of the Pakistani side, suggested that the border posts could become a long-term fixture, allowing families divided by the LoC for nearly six decades to see more of each other.

"After a year maybe you will find a big terminal coming up here. It's quite possible," Naqvi told AFP. "We are doing things with an element of permanence in them."

Increasing contact between people in both countries is one of the key confidence-building measures agreed by India and Pakistan when they launched their slow-moving peace process in January 2004.

In April, the two sides allowed the first official opening of the LoC by starting a fortnightly bus service to reunite families in the Indian and Pakistani zones.

Muslim-majority Kashmir has been split between the two countries since independence from Britain in 1947, causing two of their three wars since then and remaining the core dispute between the nuclear-armed neighbours. *AFP*

US Marine, 17 insurgents dead in Iraq assault

BAGHDAD—US AND IRAQI FORCES KILLED at least 17 insurgents as they swept through a town on the Syrian border and one US Marine was killed, the military and reporters in the town said on Monday.

On the third day of Operation Steel Curtain in Qusayba in western Iraq, the US military said troops were moving through the town, whose 30,000 residents appear mostly to have fled, clearing out insurgents in house-to-house searches.

The military said in a statement one Marine was shot dead on Sunday in the biggest operation in the mainly Sunni Arab desert province of Anbar since the battle for Falluja a year ago.

Minority Sunni insurgents, allied with al-Qaida Islamists, are fighting the US occupation and Shiite-led government.

A New York Times reporter traveling with the Marines said that a patrol had been searching a house that appeared to be empty when they were met with a hail of gunfire, which killed one Marine and drove the others outside.

The insurgent gunman was killed by other Marines as he tried to flee from the roof, the reporter said.

A CNN reporter with the Marines said that troops had found large caches of weapons in a number of houses in the town, some of which were rigged up with booby traps, referred to by the military as improvised explosive devices, or IEDs.

"Resistance remains sporadic," said Marine spokesperson Col. David Lapan. "We continue to be engaged by the enemy, mostly with small arms fire and IEDs, and use air and ground fires to kill or capture them."

CNN quoted troops in the town as saying that between 60 and 80 insurgents had been killed in the operation but a military statement late on Sunday put the insurgent death toll at 17. *Reuters*

Powerful tornado batters Indiana, kills 23, hurts 200

NEWBURGH, INDIANA—A POWERFUL TORNADO tore through southern Indiana and parts of Kentucky early on Sunday, killing at least 23 people and injuring more than 200, many caught sleeping when the twister hit, officials said.

At least five people were confirmed dead in Warrick County and at least 18 were killed in Vanderburgh County, according to county officials.

Three area hospitals reported treating more than 220 people. At St. Mary's Medical Center in Evansville, the closest hospital to the destruction, at least 30 were admitted with serious injuries, and 12 people were in critical condition.

Deaconess Hospital in Evansville had at least 15 people in critical condition, officials there said.

"We've had severe damage," said Newburgh Assistant Fire Chief Chad Bennett. "Homes were totally devastated. There are a lot of people thankful to be alive today."

Officials said the death toll would likely climb as rescue workers picked through rubble in house-to-house searches and scoured farm lands. About 130 Indiana National Guard troops were called in to assist in recovery efforts and to help provide security and clean up debris.

At least two people were found dead in a soybean field in Warrick County, according to the Newburgh fire department.

The Eastbrooke mobile home park in Evansville was one of the places hardest hit when the storm struck well before dawn.

Many homes there were reduced to twisted piles of metal that lay mixed with the remains of downed trees, smashed cars, and other debris.

In one trailer home, rescue workers found a young mother alive, but her husband and daughter dead and her two-year-old missing, said Eric Williams, chief deputy of the sheriff's department in Vanderburgh County. *Reuters*

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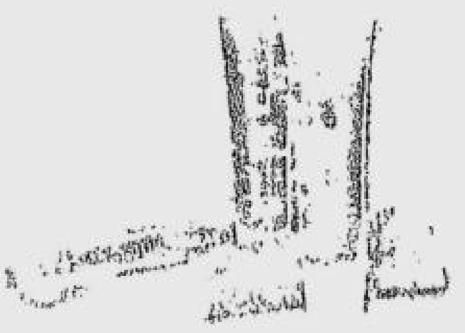

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Prejudice

EDITORIAL

LAST WEEK, THE SOCIAL WEATHER STATIONS published its latest survey showing that about two-thirds of Filipinos, despite their lack of knowledge of Islam, have a favorable opinion of Muslims and their religion. The survey, conducted from Aug. 26 to Sept. 5, showed that 63 percent of the respondents had a favorable view of Islam, compared to 52 percent in August 2004.

The results of the SWS survey differed from the findings of a Pulse Asia survey commissioned by the United Nations in March. The Pulse Asia poll, for instance, showed that 55 percent of Filipinos think "Muslims are prone to run amok." Exactly 47 percent "think Muslims are terrorists or extremists" while 44 percent believe that Muslims "harbor hatred toward non-Muslims."

The results of the SWS survey are encouraging, but it cannot be said that bigotry and discrimination against Muslim Filipinos have completely disappeared. The stereotyping of Muslim Filipinos reached its height after the plane attacks on the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York on Sept. 11, 2001. Anyone who looked like an Arab or a Muslim was regarded with suspicion and was thought to be an extremist who could, at any moment, bomb one to kingdom come. This thinking persists, even in supposedly enlightened areas like Metro Manila and other urban centers.

Some recent examples of the stereotyping of Muslims:

- In May 2004, former Maguindanao Rep. Michael Mastura, a Muslim scholar and MILF peace panel member, was detained and later deported by the US government. He had been invited to speak at a conference organized by the United Nations in New York. The US State Department later apologized to the MILF.
- In January 2005, a news report said in part: "Not even police claims about a supposed Islamic bomb plot could hold back the massive human tide [at the procession of the Black Nazarene in Quiapo]." A reader wrote that the use of the word "Islamic" to refer to the bomb was an insult to the Islamic community. She said that the Islamic community condemns terrorism in any form.
- In September-October 2004, tenants and homeowners protested against the construction of a "mosque" in a parking building at the Greenhills Shopping Center. It turned out that the supposed "mosque" was just a small prayer room intended for Muslim storeowners plying their trade at Greenhills. Muslims have to perform their prayer obligations (*salat*) five times a day.

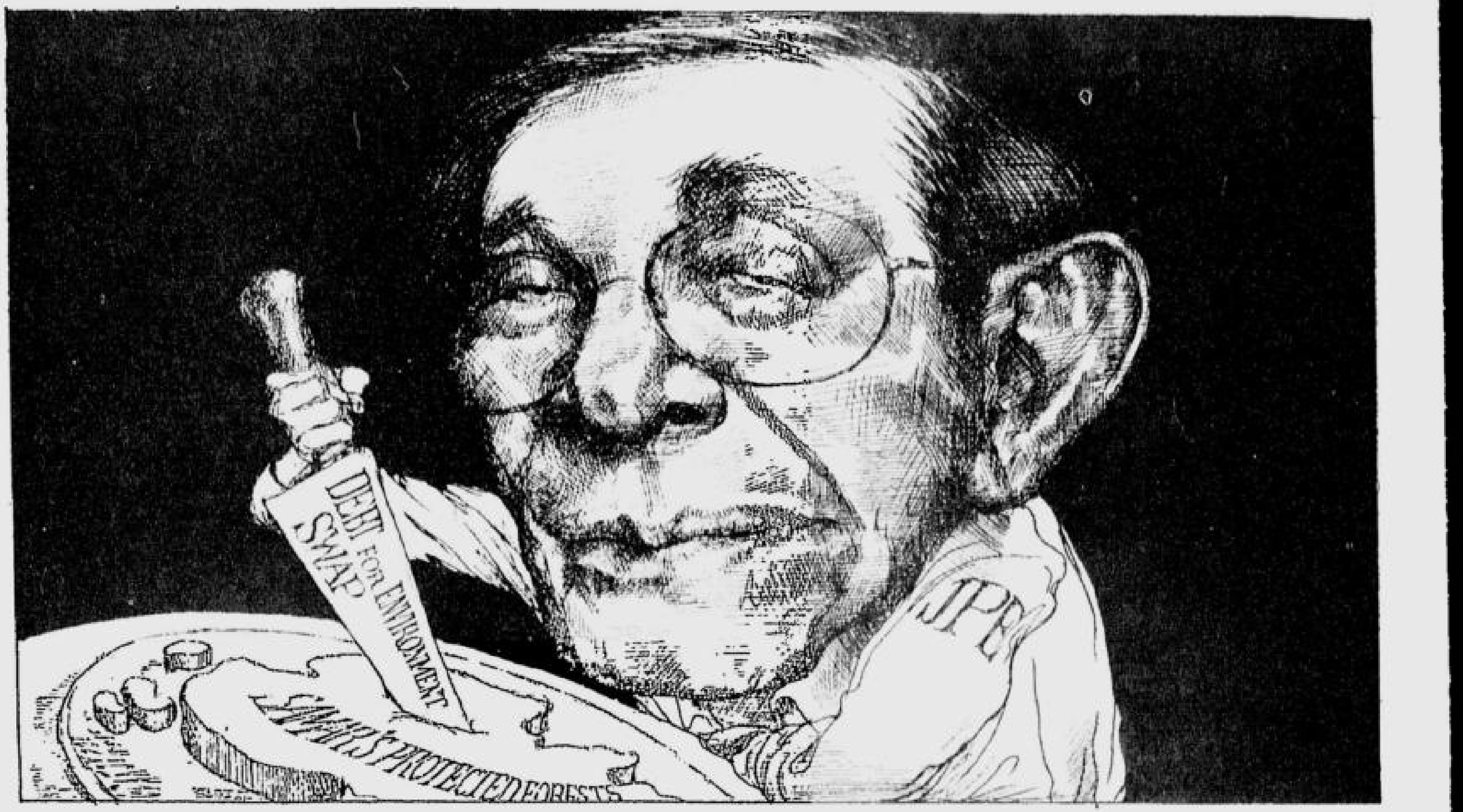
Whenever a major crime is committed in or near a Muslim community such as the one in Quiapo, the Muslims are subject to the present-day version of the "zona" during the Japanese occupation. It is as if Muslims are automatically to be held responsible for anything bad happening in the community.

In the Philippines, the anti-Muslim prejudice and bias began building up after the conquest and Christianization of the country by the Spaniards. The bias survives even in our language and culture. One writer once asked why we have *moro-moro* dramas but no "Christian-Christian" plays. After the Philippines was ceded by Spain to the United States, the Americans continued the stereotyping of Muslims. The belief spread that Muslims could not be trusted and they were apt to run amok (become *juramentados*). In many places Muslims are eyed with fear, loathing and suspicion. A Muslim congressman once said that Muslims (who, in the first place, were the original settlers of Mindanao) have become "foreigners in their own land."

The attack on the World Trade Center heightened the prejudice against Muslims all over the world, including Filipino Muslims. Now people do not make a distinction between peaceful, law-abiding Muslims and Muslim fundamentalists or extremists who use religion as an instrument of terrorism and violence.

There is no reason why peace-loving Muslims and Christians cannot coexist in harmony throughout the country. But first, bigotry and discrimination have to go. The old prejudices and biases have to be cast off. Christians and Muslims have to be treated as equals before the law and before God, as befits all citizens of an enlightened, liberal democracy.

The earlier Pulse Asia survey indicated that the anti-Muslim bias persisting in the country appears to be fueling the 35-year-old armed conflict in Mindanao. The conflict has taken a terrible toll in human lives, in number of people displaced, in public works and private property destroyed and in foregone investments. If the age-old biases and prejudices could be cast off, we may yet be able to attain peace in Mindanao in our time.



A road too far

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

WHY DID CEBU CITY MAYOR TOMAS OSMEÑA barrel, this time, into a road too far?

Over the last 192 days, His Honor blocked a six-lane, 12-kilometer national government highway, with dilapidated city hall buses, invoking "security." And the courts lashed him from pillar to post for his trouble.

Over a million commuters were stopped in their tracks by the mayor's arms-akimbo barrier at the P7.6-billion South Coastal Road. Diverted into a traffic-gridlocked, two-lane street were passengers heading for Cebu's piers or airport, students, processing zone employees and businessmen motoring to jump-off points for Negros, Bohol and other provinces.

"It's a road his city does not own," Viewpoint pointed out earlier. But the cowed city council and public works department didn't even whimper at the hijack. Fuel bills for the extra hour's travel would be staggering, this column warned. But passes "will be given to whoever the mayor's fountain will bless."

And so it came to pass.

Half a year after taxpayer Fred Sipalay sued, Regional Trial Court Judge Soliver Peras ruled: "Funds used to build (it) came from national government." City lawyers didn't contest that point during the dragged-out hearings.

Dismantle barriers to the idled highway, Peras ordered Osmeña. From 5 a.m. to 7 p.m., all motorists (not just those flagging mayor's passes) may drive through the road that traverses Cebu's troubled 295-hectare South Reclamation Project, the court's 16-page ruling added.

"Now, Cardinal Ricardo Vidal can use that highway," Sun Star's Bong Wenceslao wrote. About 168 of his parishes are in the south. But the Cebu archbishop declined to ask for a pass. Instead, the prelate queued with sweating citizens denied use of a road their taxes built. "I'll use that road only when it's open to everybody," the cardinal explained.

"We'll be reasonably fast in implementing (the order)," Osmeña said. "But that road has always been open. Thousands and thousands of commuters will testify that I never closed it. I only regulated it."

Really? And what dictionary does His Honor use?

City hall lawyers dredged up a raft of technicalities, questioning complainant Sipalay's legal personality and claiming injunctions against government infrastructure programs are banned.

What happened to the law that authorizes mayors to control traffic? Osmeña fumed. Clarify what you meant, the mayor needled the judge.

Until the order becomes final, city hall will issue arguably worthless passes. But it won't install electricity or traffic signs for now, Osmeña said. The court assumed the role of traffic manager by its injunction. So, he'd dump this executive function on a judicial body.

"It cannot just wash its hands of any accidents there," he groused as spikes a la Ely Pamatong popped up on the highway. "I was just doing my job."

Nonsense. All the court said was that the mayor screwed up his job.

"The real issue is not the road closure," said Sipalay in a supplemental pleading that had the backing of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines.

That illicit barricade stems from the brawl between Rep. Eduardo Gullas and Osmeña over Talisay City's 10-minutes-to-midnight claim to 54 hectares of Cebu's reclamation project. A former Talisay mayor, Gullas' claim delayed the issuance of titles for reclamation lots.

Osmeña can't afford delay. Serial devaluations saw the SRP loan of P2.9 billion implode to thrice its original cost. Cebu hemorrhages from P1.5 million daily payment to the Japan Bank of International Cooperation just for interest. A full quarter of the city budget is hocked by loan bills.

This mayor resolves problems by inflicting pain on the weak to compel action by the strong. His arsenal includes bluster, like vowing to dump garbage at IBP offices when it pressed city hall to implement garbage segregation or arm-twisting bystanders. Thus, he booted Talisay vendors from Cebu markets. He fired exemplary employees because they lived in Talisay.

"By flogging innocent coastal road users, Osmeña is trying to compel Malacañang to issue the titles pronto," we noted then. But what happens when inflicting pain as policy rides in tandem with overconfidence?

In Nazi-occupied Arheim, the Netherlands, overconfidence led to the failed Allied Forces attack on "a bridge too far."

Mayor Osmeña is supremely confident in, above all, Mayor Osmeña. He governs by his lonesome. He doesn't consult. He squelches dissent. Not even his council was allowed to question his yen loans. Today, Cebuano taxpayers are handcuffed to almost double the national per capita foreign debt repayment burdens.

In times of crisis, Osmeña finds himself boxed into his 8th floor throne room. He swept under the rug the emerging problem of water shortages in the SRP. Desalination is power intensive and costly, he is finding out late in the day.

"The mayor shares with his illustrious grandfather…the family name," said the Cebu Daily News editorial of March 5, 2003. "But each generation must hack out for themselves traits that command respect, not odium…To paraphrase Winston Churchill, this mayor 'has all the virtues I dislike, and none of the vices I admire.'"

* * *

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Fighting terror

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE DEATH OF ROSA PARKS MONDAY LAST week triggered off a memory. That was Jack E. White's article on Martin Luther King in Time's 100 five years ago. It contained this lustrous gem:

"It is a testament to the greatness of Martin Luther King Jr. that nearly every major city in the US has a street or school named after him. It is a measure of how sorely his achievements are misunderstood that most of them are located in black neighborhoods.

"Three decades after King was gunned down on a motel balcony in Memphis, Tenn., he is still regarded mainly as the black leader of a movement for black equality… (Yet) for all King did to free blacks from the yoke of segregation, whites may owe him the greatest debt, for liberating them from the burden of America's centuries-old hypocrisy about race. It is only because of King and the movement that he led that the US can claim to be the leader of the 'free world' without inviting smirks of disdain and disbelief. Had he and the blacks and whites who marched beside him failed, vast regions of the US would have remained morally indistinguishable from South Africa under apartheid, with terrible consequences for America's standing among nations. How could America have convincingly inveighed against the Iron Curtain while an equally oppressive Cotton Curtain remained draped across the South?"

I remembered this as well in connection with an item I read last week on our front page. That was two American experts who worked for Bill Clinton saying the United States was losing the war on terror. "It's been fairly disastrous," says Daniel Benjamin, National Security Council director for counterterrorism from 1994 to 1999. "We have made some important successes getting individual terrorists. But I think the broader story is really quite awful. We have done a lot to fuel the fires, and we have done a lot to encourage people to hate us."

Doubtless, a great of that has to do with George W. Bush who, for reasons only the American voters can say, remains free to torment the world. He is the single biggest encouragement for "people to hate us." But it really goes much deeper than that. It goes back to what White says about the "free world" America has been pleased to imagine itself leading. Or indeed carve upon the world.

It's not just the recent events inside the United States, notably the Homeland Security Act and the other monstrosities the American Right has unleashed upon that country, that brings America's moral authority to free the world into question. It is the fact that only 50 years ago a Rosa Parks could be arrested and fined for refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white man. The signs on toilets that say white folk or colored folk only may have completely disappeared in the streets but they have not done so in the mind. Hurricane Katrina was there to remind everyone of it, black folk carting off stuff from supermarkets being described in news as "looting stores" and white folk doing exactly the same thing as "finding food." Jack White is right: How does a country that not too long ago practiced the equivalent of South African apartheid—and hasn't been altogether weaned from it—get to imagine it has the right to (paraphrasing Bob Marley) emancipate others from their physical and mental slavery?

And it's not just the gratuitous, or indeed duplicitous, occupation of Iraq that brings into question the "American way of life" that Bush says he is defending by acts like that. Indeed, to this day, there's a humongous injustice America is wreaking upon another country that has yet to end, let alone be redressed. That is the US blockade of Cuba. The American blockade of Iraq after the Gulf War lasted for only a decade, and wrought more deaths than the bombs it rained on Baghdad during the war. The American blockade of Cuba has lasted 43 years. The US government imposed it in February 1962, banning all American trade, aid, and tourists from flowing into the islands. Indeed preventing other countries from having any economic dealings with Cuba. Today, with the collapse of the socialist world, the country is surviving largely on its own. That it has managed to do so is a testament to its strength of national and human will.

Today, Cuba will reiterate its call to the UN General Assembly to end the blockade. Last year, the General Assembly already upheld Cuba's case, voting 179 to 4 in favor of lifting the blockade. The four against were the United States, Israel, Marshall Islands and Palau. Thankfully, the Philippines wasn't one of them, though it has now pretty much fallen into the status of the Marshall Islands and Palau.

What is Cuba's crime? No more than being black in Alabama in the 1950s: it is remaining independent all this time. Cuba poses no more threat to the United States than blacks do to white Americans. Yet it is being punished with a viciousness that finds its equal only in the way blacks were being strung up in trees in the American heartland not too long ago for holding their heads high.

Daniel Benjamin is right: The United States is losing the war against terror. But that is so for reasons that go well past recent American policies that have proven monumentally disastrous. That is so for reasons that have to do with the kind of freedom the United States means to foster upon the world. And that is so for reasons that have to do with the terror America is fighting. Not too long ago, the blacks who rebelled against their slavery were considered terrorists threatening the American way of life; today countries like Cuba that rebelled against their oppression are considered terrorists threatening the American way of life.

For Benjamin, the United States is losing the fight against terror. For blacks and Cubans, among others, the rest of the world is winning the fight against it.

GMA needs credible appointee to Ombudsman post

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

I'M GLAD THE PALACE AND THE DFA ARE NOT mindlessly giving in to pressure from the Left regarding the reported rape in Subic last week, allegedly involving a number of American servicemen. Any mention of the "Kano" always sends the Left into paroxysms of anger, and they are using the episode to agitate anew for the abrogation of the Visiting Forces Agreement. Which is, of course, crazy, for precisely it's the VFA that ought to govern such cases.

What is expected of the Philippine and US governments is to cooperate fully so that both sides can be heard in an investigation of facts, not suspicions or allegations, and justice can be meted out, if indeed raped had been committed. Gone are the days when erring US servicemen are spirited out of this country, but we can't also have a hangman's mentality guiding our decisions. Let's calm down and allow the justice system to do its job.

* * *

There are 15 candidates for the post of ombudsman soon to be vacated by Simeon Marcelo, and the media have been exhorted to help give full publicity to the nominees in order to make the selection process credible. That this post is very crucial to the campaign against graft and corruption cannot be overemphasized.

I looked over the list and realized that I personally know three people: Davao del Sur Rep. Douglas Cagas, Presidential Legal Adviser Merceditas Gutierrez and Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa Ignacio. Gutierrez is hampered by the perception that she is very close to First Gentleman Mike Arroyo (they were Ateneo law school classmates). On the other hand, I have known Cagas from his Batasan Pambansa days as a guy who can stand up for his principles. During the martial law years, he was jailed by Marcos thrice and, as he related in his impeachment vote, his wife was nearly raped at that time. Even though Cagas belongs to the GMA coalition in the House and helped defend her during the impeachment process, he is enough of a maverick and can be independent-minded. Villa-Ignacio is another respected straight-shooter. This asset has been more than amply demonstrated in his outspoken criticisms of the Arroyo administration's perceived leniency toward former President Joseph Estrada.

* * *

I think either Cagas or Villa-Ignacio would make a credible and competent ombudsman. GMA should be particularly wary about selecting someone from "The Firm," for as in the case of Mercy Gutierrez, this would give the perception that the appointment is being made primarily to protect her and her family's interest. GMA needs to make sound and credible decisions if she wants to repair her credibility over the long haul. She should have had enough of the Garci types.

* * *

The Cabinet's *enfant terrible*, Environment Secretary Mike Defensor, always manages to get into the news for various reasons. The latest was about his plan to testify in the People's Court, until he was dissuaded by his colleagues. Another thing that hasn't escaped unnoticed is Mike's braces. There is the story told by Sen. Joker Arroyo about a mining conference earlier last month that drew Canadians, Australians and Europeans interested in investing in our mines. Defensor made a PowerPoint presentation and was quite articulate. Joker, who arrived late, sat at the back but soon a European joined him and asked, "Is it Boys Week today?" It occurred to Joker that Mike came up to just the waist of the Caucasians near him and Joker asked the guy, "Yes. How did you guess?" The European replied, "Because he has braces," but noted that "he is very articulate." To which Joker stressed confidently, "Mike is a boy genius." When a pretty page began distributing the program of the mining conference to the latecomers, Joker left in hurry.

* * *

Dec. 20 is the 50th anniversary of the first Mass celebrated at the UP Chapel of the Holy Sacrifice in Diliman, Quezon City. The Mass on that day, with Bishop Honesto Ongtioco as main celebrant, will bring together past and present members of the UP academic and non-academic community, friends of the late Jesuit Fathers John P. Delaney and Pacifico Ortiz (the first Catholic chaplains) and those who succeeded them, and UPSCAns and alumni who helped build the chapel through their prayers and sacrifices. To prepare for the event, a number of activities have been lined up, foremost of which are the novena Masses for nine consecutive Sundays at 6 p.m., with some previous chaplains as celebrants. The first novena Mass last Oct. 16 had Msgr. Pat Lim as the main celebrant, and the 5th and 6th Masses on Nov. 13 and Nov. 20 will be officiated by Msgr. Chito Bernardo and Bishop Ramon Arguelles, respectively. All UPSCAns, past and present, are cordially invited.

* * *

National Historical Institute Chair Ambeth Ocampo has signified the NHI's intention to declare the UP chapel as a national historical landmark, "considering its historical and artistic significance as a masterpiece of Filipino artistry and ingenuity by proclaimed Filipino national artists." Among these national artists who contributed to the construction and decoration of the UP chapel were architect Leandro Locsin, painters Vicente Manansala and Arturo Luz and sculptor Napoleon Abueva. Among its earlier parishioners were famed writers NVM Gonzalez and Franz Arcellana. The declaration and the unveiling of a historical marker have been set for 5 p.m. on Jan. 12, 2006, the 50th anniversary of the legendary Father Delaney, during which artists, engineers and the 1,000 donors who helped to build the chapel will be recognized. This column will keep UP alumni posted on various activities as the anniversary draws near.

Another avenue for Subic rape victim

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WE BETTER HOPE THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT handles the rape case alleged against five (or six) American servicemen with dispatch and resolve. If not, if the case is handled clumsily, especially if the handling gives the impression that our law enforcers were less than scrupulous in ensuring that justice is done to the victim, or that the accused were given special treatment or protection, then the government would be opening itself to potentially embarrassing international proceedings.

The case raised by the victim—a 22-year-old college graduate from Zamboanga who was visiting Subic—if handled carelessly or with craven submission to American authorities, could well become a very good candidate for what's known as the Optional Protocol of Cedaw or the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Cedaw is often described as the "international bill of rights" for women, the first legally binding international document that prohibits discrimination against women and holds governments accountable to the international community (by way of the UN Cedaw committee) for the way they do or do not advance women's equality with men in their territories.

The Optional Protocol of Cedaw, on the other hand, is a human rights treaty that complements Cedaw and "provides women whose rights were violated a way to seek justice at the international level." Under the protocol, a case of gender-based human rights violation could come before the UN Cedaw committee through either of two ways: the "communications procedure" that empowers individuals or groups to submit petitions directly to the committee; and through the "inquiry procedure" that entitles the Cedaw Committee to investigate serious or systematic abuses of women's rights in member countries.

The Philippines is a signatory to the Cedaw and has ratified the protocol.

* * *

"THE PHILIPPINES has obligations to protect the physical integrity and human rights of Filipino women," declares former Ambassador Rosario "Nena" Manalo, who was elected last January as president of the Cedaw Committee. "Under the optional protocol, failure on the part of the Philippine government to adequately address the victim's pleas for justice could be taken as failure in general to provide protection and security for Filipino women," she explains.

The protocol, Manalo adds, requires that a complainant prove that she had exhausted all available avenues for redress at the national level. But if it should happen that the Philippine government, out of a desire not to offend the Bush administration, or to protect the Visiting Forces Agreement under which the servicemen entered the Philippines, ends up insulating the accused rapists from the Philippine criminal justice system, then it would open itself up to an internationally adjudicated procedure that could possibly end up prosecuting not the servicemen but the Philippine government.

The question at hand, notes Manalo, "is whether the government is looking to protect the rights of individual women, or looking at protecting our relations with a foreign government." In other words, is our government willing to sacrifice the interests of a rape victim (and all other abused women, at that) for foreign relations? Or as Manalo puts it: "Are they for national security or for security of persons?"

* * *

ACCORDING to provisions in the VFA, the Philippine government may demand custody of an American serviceman accused of committing a crime if it thinks the crime is "serious" enough to warrant it.

The choice is now up to the Department of Justice or even Malacañang. Is this rape case "serious" enough to warrant a demand for custody of the accused? And if the government decides otherwise, is it saying that the rape of a Filipina is not "serious" enough to put US-RP relations in jeopardy?

I'm afraid that if the DOJ decides to sweep the rape case under the rug, it could also send a more alarming and damaging message to the rest of the world. And that message is that our government cares so little for the welfare, safety and human rights of women that even if we are raped and abused (or trafficked globally) by foreigners, maintaining cordial relations with the governments involved would take precedence over our cries for justice.

* * *

THE US Embassy, by seeking to maintain custody of the accused servicemen as long as it can, is within its rights in protecting the interests of its citizens. But is the Philippine government, through the Arroyo administration, similarly seeking to protect the rights of its own citizen whose right of protection against all forms of violence was violated in so wanton a manner?

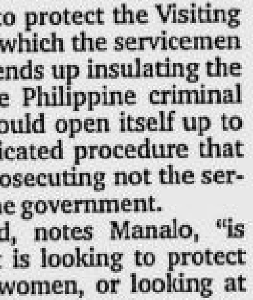
We must remember, too, that the alleged crime was committed on Philippine soil and should be investigated, tried and resolved under relevant Philippine laws. Already, authorities at the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, which is not even a local government unit but a mere administrative body, have been accused of restricting the release of information regarding the rape case, particularly withholding the victim's sworn statement, violating a provision of the anti-rape law.

This is, in many ways, a make-or-break case. Not just on the viability of the VFA and the possibility of maintaining any sort of equality under the terms of a military agreement, but also on the commitment of the State to protect the rights of its citizens—even if this commitment should put it at loggerheads against the world's only remaining superpower.

Resentments

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper



THERE'S NOTHING LIKE FINDING YOUR MAILbox clogged up after a trip with 1,535 (OK, so I exaggerate) letters, announcements, junk mail and spending hours cleaning it out. However, there was one particular article on Filipino-American Veterans sent by Leslie Murray that caught my eye.

It appears that it's Arnold Schwarzenegger, the Terminator, who has pledged to ask President Bush to support the pension disability bills for Filipino veterans. Schwarzenegger wrote, "We extend our deepest gratitude to the valiant Filipino soldiers who fought for their beliefs and the noble ideal of democracy. I join Californians in paying tribute to these patriots." Oct. 20 of every year has been proclaimed by the California governor as Filipino American Veterans Day.

Franco Arcebal, 81, a veteran in Los Angeles who was tortured during the war, commented that they had "succeeded in changing the mind of the governor. We can look forward to his letters to the Board of Education and to President Bush." Which means to say that 59 years after the war, when most of the veterans have died, the United States government is still hanging tough about recognizing the equality between the American and Filipino veterans with regard to compensation.

Previous to this, Schwarzenegger had vetoed a bill that would have "encouraged" California public school teachers to include their stories in defense of American democracy in social studies classes in Grades 7 to 12. Fortunately the bill passed in the State Legislature.

Earlier this year, when the movie "The Great Raid" was premiered, I received a letter from Christopher Bunao, an interior designer in Sta. Monica, California, who requested that I write about the guerrilla leader Juan Pajota (played by Cesar Montano in the movie). In the process of researching, I found out that Pajota died in California some years after the war without having been granted the American citizenship he sought. At this point, I felt so sorry for him I never did write the article. Here was a man who obviously had fought for the United States and believed in it enough to want to be a citizen. Let me make it clear that many others fought to rid their country, the Philippines, of a foreign invader, namely the Japanese. (To this day Japan has not formally apologized, as far as I know, but due to the fact that we owe it a lot of money and expect to receive even more aid, our government isn't about to make a fuss. Note that the Chinese and the Koreans are the ones vehemently protesting Prime Minister Koizumi's visit to the Yasukuni War shrine on the 60th anniversary of the war. From us, not a whisper or whimper of protest.)

But to go back to Captain Pajota. If you have read the books on the rescue of the Americans in the concentration camp in Cabanatuan or seen the movie, it is abundantly clear that the raid could not have been effected without the Filipino guerrillas who blew up the bridge (at the risk of their lives, mind you) to delay the Japanese forces. Well, who knows? If the US government waits a couple more years, there may only be one or two veterans left. In which case, it will be much cheaper to pay them off.

In another letter, Dr. Crisostomo Arcilla laments the raw deal he believes we got from the Americans and our politicians in 1946. His teenage memories of the Japanese occupation include being "slapped and jujitsued a number of times for not bowing low enough to the satisfaction of Japanese sentries who were standing in front of sentry boxes almost in every corner of Ermita district where I grew up." His grandfather was bayoneted, three young girl cousins were machine-gunned, and the wife of another cousin was raped and killed.

Since he joined the United States Army's First Cavalry as a volunteer corpsman and walked with them to the Philippine General Hospital, he saw with his own eyes that it was the American Liberation Forces that leveled Manila with their mortars, their 105 and 155 cannons. (To be fair, I think it was the Japanese who refused to declare Manila an open city and decided to occupy the buildings and either blew them up or fought to the last man. However, between the two of them Manila was leveled.) After the Japanese surrendered, in the midst of that devastation, Manuel Roxas declared our independence "in his desire to be known as the First President of the Philippine Republic." Arcilla believes that "if Manuel Roxas were a true political scientist (?) he could've asked for deferment of our independence until America had helped rebuild the country."

With the Philippines on its knees (where it appears we have remained ever since with our begging bowls) Gen. Douglas MacArthur "hied to Tokyo…Japan was rebuilt faster than our country!" There are those who believe that this was done for PR purposes—to show America's magnanimity toward an enemy—as well as to convert Japan into a bastion of democracy in Asia. It was easier to rebuild her industries since she was industrialized before the war.

Arcilla writes that "carpetbaggers" among whom were "mindless politicians, the crooked businessmen and the rich who declared false war damage claims . . . insatiable people who did not care about our people and the country" destroyed the fledgling democracy. "We became a country of steel mattings, war-surplus materials and equipment that were dilapidated, including the ubiquitous jeeps, weapons carriers and 6x6 trucks. We never got industrialized."

How's that for resentments?

* * *

Comments at bambiharper@yahoo.com

Quiet desperation

YOUNG BLOOD

Yasmin Laurene R. Cabansag

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

FOR THE PAST MONTHS, I'VE KEPT A LOT OF ISSUES wrapped in silence. I'm one of those people who may not be marching on the streets but are seething inside.

Right after the "Hello Garci' tapes surfaced, my initial reaction was anger. And it turned into fury when President Macapagal-Arroyo said: "I'm sorry ... but let's move on." In my head the question kept ringing: "How can the nation go on with its business when it is weighed down by injustice? She has no mandate, to say the least, and now she's asking an entire people to accept a lie. She must be out of her mind."

As I was getting myself ready to join street marches again, I bumped into an old friend in law school whom I've always respected for having an analytical mind. He argued that this was not the appropriate time for yet another people power and that GMA still remained our best option.

At the end of our discussion, I must admit I was half-way convinced by his arguments. Ironically, we had our talk at about the same time the opposition seemed unable to organize itself. Doubts began to cloud my mind and eventually developed into confusion. And when I decided that I couldn't wholly trust the agenda of the opposition, I began to lose hope and took refuge in blissful indifference. I stopped religiously reading newspapers and watching the late-night news on TV. I focused instead on other matters, until I became totally ignorant of what was happening around me.

For a time, I thought I had peace of mind. Until one Saturday night, when unexpectedly I got a wake-up call. I was watching an episode of the TV show "Imbestigador" on Juan Tanga which exposed the pitiable state of education and literacy. It woke me up from my slumber and moved me. These are my countrymen and what have I done for them? The eyes of those young lads seemed to be begging me to do something. I began to chide myself for doing nothing about their lot and even thinking of letting the political opposition do all the fighting. And as if to reinforce the alarm, I came across a quote from Joseph Addison saying: "There is no greater sign of general decay of virtue in a nation than a want of zeal in its inhabitants for the good of their country."

I began to ask myself: Have we come to this? Are we no longer held together by a moral consensus and a sense of justice? Is our battle for truth really an insurmountable barrier or is it our own weakness of purpose that is proving to be a barrier?

It is deeply disheartening to see that even religious leaders and some bright young men and women are beginning to accept GMA's "truth" because of the absence of a viable option to her leadership. I've always believed that it is better to lose a good fight than to win fighting for a bad cause. No, I refuse to give up the struggle to remove the stain of dishonesty from our national life. I cannot accept GMA's call to unite and build a strong republic for her. She has no moral ascendancy to sound that call. Her half-hearted apology only hid the important things and revealed the superficial ones. Lest we forget, the truth has no shades of grey.

After the impeachment complaint was murdered by her allies in the House of Representatives and now the policy of suppression of our basic rights through the so-called "calibrated preemptive response" and EO 464, it is clear to me that she does not believe in justice or democracy. Her latest acts are incompatible with her call for national reconciliation. I would rather preserve the division afflicting our nation than support an evil uniformity.

It may have taken some time for me to realize that by doing nothing I was signaling my approval for everything she was doing. I am glad to have been awakened from this nightmare of indifference. I cannot stay aside and just sit in quiet desperation.

Yasmin Laurene R. Cabansag, 23, is a law student.

Enough of politics

Andrea Paula Borja

I WORK ON AYALA AVENUE IN MAKATI. AND ON THOSE days when the "explosive" truth about GMA's cheating was exposed publicly, the buses started moving at 50 iph (inches per hour). I took to hiking four blocks in my high heels to get to work.

Stupid rallies. The thought of having to walk four blocks in high heels is depressing—suicidal, even. Stupid high heels. Sigh.

I've grown to hate politics over the last few months. All this hype! Everyone seems to have an opinion about the government and how it is being run and who runs it.

My artsy-fartsy friends and I spend Saturday afternoons in coffee shops, the ones with artsy cappuccinos that make you jumpier than a ping-pong ball and underground indie music that sounds like an epileptic hyena having sex with a porcupine. We talk about poetry and love and how the music speaks to us and sings of our angst.

But these days, we have temporarily put aside all things poetic and argue intelligently about hard politics—about GMA and GMA and GMA.

We have exhausted the topic, I think. I'm exhausted.

My mother teaches development communication. A militant idealist, she won't like my saying this, but I think GMA should stay. This comes from a cynical perspective, but all politicians cheat—this one just got caught.

I didn't vote for GMA. I didn't vote for anybody. Maybe what's wrong is not how the government is being run or who is running it. Maybe it's who is being run that's the problem. Us, maybe?

That makes more sense than this endless overanalysis of our politicians. We must be perverts. We feel bad about ourselves if we can't find a hot controversy. We have grown so accustomed to watching impeachment processes and protest rallies and all other forms and manner of conflict, that we feel less than human without such things. It's reality TV Pinoy-style, where we can all throw in a few punches without actually getting hurt. (This is the closest I've come to understanding the guilty pleasure of watching reality TV shows like "Survivor. We have a morbid fascination with seeing other people being humiliated onscreen and being able to say "What an idiot" and being secretly thankful that it's not us making fools of ourselves.)

So what if the opposition can possibly run the government better? It has never run the government before. At least GMA has had five years of practice. So crucify her and beat her behind for cheating, but shall we get over it now? It's not like FPJ is still around to take his rightful place as president.

Andrea Paula Borja, 22, finished her Bachelor of Science in Development Communication degree at the Ateneo de Cagayan.

PDI PHOTO

LPG tanks being readied for delivery

Spare LPG from new EVAT law

I HAVE JUST ATTENDED THE BUreau of Internal Revenue's roadshow presentation of the EVAT law. Personally, I am not in favor of implementing it on LPG. Of all the petroleum products covered by the law, only LPG is used by the majority of the poor.

Besides, LPG is right now sold by the tank which contains the standard 11 kilograms; unlike other petroleum products which are sold by the liter and thus—depending on the money you have—you can buy one, or two or three or more liters.

Needless to say, the poor will be the ones to be hit hardest by the increase in the price of LPG because it would be very expensive for them to buy LPG at the cost of P550 per tank. The amount would be equivalent to two or three days' income of a daily-wage or below-minimum-wage earner, or almost half or more than half of his/her weekly earnings.

Some mitigating measures are said to have been instituted. While they would be of help, I think the question remains: Could ordinary Filipinos afford the cost?

I am, therefore, calling and/or requesting the Department of Energy, the Department of Trade and Industry and other concerned agencies to please consider issuing a circular reducing the content of standard LPG tanks to 8 or 7 kg only. This would allow ordinary Filipinos to buy LPG at P350, assuming that the government insists on subjecting LPG to VAT.

I am also calling the attention of the oil companies to consider my suggestion so that they, too, would be able to help the majority of the Filipino people.

—ROLANDO M. MIRABUNA,
engrollym@yahoo.com

Why is GMA protecting onerous IPP contracts?

THE FREEDOM FROM DEBT Coalition strongly condemns the continued protection given by the Arroyo administration to independent power producers (IPPs) with contracts already determined to be grossly disadvantageous to the Filipino people. In the light of the government's self-professed impotence in controlling escalating power costs and curbing the budget deficit, the FDC notes that a substantial portion of the National Power Corp.'s debt is owed to these notorious IPPs.

Electricity consumers are suffering as a result of these IPP contracts. Almost 20 percent of an ordinary household's budget goes to payment of electricity alone. This is reason enough for the authorities to present the signatories of the onerous IPP contracts before the bar of justice and have them answer for their virtual betrayal of the public trust.

The FDC likewise calls upon Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, chair of the Senate committee on energy, to make good on her promise to go after the the signatories to the five most onerous contracts, signed during the Ramos administration.

The FDC notes that former President Ramos appears to be directly involved in three of the five most onerous contracts. Is Ramos' support for Ms Arroyo's continued stay in Malacañang a major consideration in her protecting the notorious IPPs?

The FDC challenges Senator Santiago to set aside political partisanship and alliances in favor of the greater public interest.

The FDC calls for the aggressive investigation into these onerous contracts and the prosecution of the signatories thereto, if not by the Arroyo government—because of its unhealthy alliance with Ramos—then by the government that will succeed her administration.

—ANA MARIA R. NEMENZO,
president,
Freedom from Debt Coalition,
34 Matiaga St., Central District,
Quezon City

COA to blame for failure of anti-graft drive

SO MUCH HAS BEEN SAID ABOUT corruption in government. The tentacles of corruption have spread to the lowest government unit—the barangay, indicating that corruption is now so widespread and getting worse. It is already a common perception among Filipinos that, in every government transaction, there is always an "under the table rider" termed "SOP."

A constitutional body—the Commission on Audit—is said to be the watchdog of the coffers of government. It appears that the COA has failed in the performance of its duties and responsibilities as mandated under our Constitution. Only small fish, like municipal treasurers and disbursing officials of the Department of Public Works and Highways have been found disbursing public funds illegally. Yet government continues to lose billions of pesos to graft and corruption.

Despite the widespread corruption, not a single member of Congress has denounced the failure of the COA to curb corruption. Now that the Senate is busy investigating the anomalous transactions of the government, perhaps, it is also proper for the senators to look into the performance of the COA, considering the fact that the salaries of COA officers and employees come from taxpayers. Who audits the auditors?

It is very unfortunate that the President is unfairly blamed for the corruption in government, yet no one blames the COA whose main task is to protect taxpayers' money from being wasted and spent illegally.

—DODO MARANTE,
7 Poblacion Occidental,
Valencia, Bohol

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The real tragedy on Mt. Diwalwal

THE MT. DIWALWAL TRAGEDY IN Monkayo, Davao del Norte, is a sober reminder of the government's dismal policy on mining. The 12 people who died in that disaster add to a long list of mining-related casualties, which could have been prevented if the government had cared enough.

The recent mining disaster should be seen in a larger perspective. The country may be rich in mineral reserves, but the profits derived from their extraction never actually go to the national coffers. Instead, the bodies of poor miners get enclosed in coffins.

While the government looks at small-scale mining as a nuisance to mineral-rich areas, it blatantly allows transnational mining corporations to extract and exploit our mineral resources under unfair agreements beneficial only to corporate mining investors. When Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo called for a stop to all "illegal mining operations" in Mt. Diwalwal after the disaster, she obviously had in mind only the poor local small-scale miners who she felt were responsible for their misfortune. But we have to remind Ms Arroyo that if there is somebody most responsible for the mining catastrophes, it's no other but the government.

When she was still a senator, Ms Arroyo authored the controversial Philippine Mining Act of 1995. The Act allows 100-percent ownership and control of lands rich in mineral reserves by transnational corporations (TNCs). The Financial and Technical Assistance Agreement (FTTA) provisions under the Act also grant these TNCs loose privileges and economic and political rights that skirt constitutional prohibitions.

When Ms Arroyo assumed the presidency, she made the revitalization of the mining industry a priority economic agenda in an effort to solve the financial crisis. But instead of serving the interest of the country, this priority of her administration only facilitated further exploitation of our mineral resources and the destruction of our environment.

With the revitalized mining industry, thousands of lives face a bleak future, threatened by displacement, even facing untold health risks.

And the government has opted to willfully violate the rights of indigenous peoples to their ancestral land and to self-determination because most mining areas are located in their territories. Cases of human rights violations by government troops against those who oppose large-scale mining operations are growing in number.

We ought to realize that the real tragedy is not only in the death of the poor miners, but in the constant, ominous effort of the government to sell out our sovereignty to transnational corporations who are interested only in exploiting our national wealth, and leaving us with nothing but toxic wastes and diseases.

—JONATHAN SO,
Solidarity of Indigenous Peoples and Advocates for Gloria's Ouster (SIPA GLORIA),
48-A Mapagbigay St.,
Pinyahan District, Diliman, QC

Burma should be in UN agenda

I READ WITH HORROR AND shame the reports that appeared in the international media, indicating that the Philippines may vote with communist China and authoritarian Russia against the move to place Burma on the UN Security Council's agenda. The proposed UN move is intended to focus on the Burmese regime as a potential threat to Southeast Asia's peace.

This is largely the result of the recent comprehensive report—sponsored by Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, former Czech President Vaclav Havel and Archibishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu—which details the country's human rights abuses, economic mismanagement, rampant drug trade and ethnic persecution (which has led to one of the largest refugee outflows in the region).

Last Oct. 24, Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of Burma's National League for Democracy, marked her 10th year in house arrest and detention, a condition imposed on her by Burmese generals who usurped power in a 1962 coup and then ruthlessly suppressed the results of the 1990 election that the NLD won.

It would be a travesty if the Philippines, which so quickly supported the United States' "war on terror," implicitly supports a regime which terrorizes its own people. President Macapagal-Arroyo should immediately order the UN Philippine delegation to vote yes on this crucial issue not merely to support a female Asian head of government but to end the suffering of the Burmese people.

—ISABEL TAYLOR ESCODA,
Hong Kong

We can stop corrupt leadership

HAS ANYONE NOTICED HOW the lies are flowing into the political arena in rapid succession and in complete disregard of the truth? What could it mean but that the liars are indulging in willful deception for an evil purpose? What will the rest of us who abhor lies do about it?

Consider first that lies have always been used to confuse truth-seekers. In doing so, the liars ordinarily get more time within which to distort truth and thus obstruct justice. Indeed, the clever excuse of the Arroyo administration is that the nation needs stability in order to achieve its economic objectives. But the clever rhetoric for stabilization comes in many disguises.

Consider, for example, the excuse that Charter change will put us back on the road to progress. The truth, of course, is that it will only introduce new conditions into the equation, which will make the present need for justice irrelevant in the event a new form of government is put in place, in effect, ensuring that the interests of the privileged few in our society remain protected.

This only indicates that we have a convoluted sense of what democracy is supposed to be. That the Arroyo administration has been ignoring the public clamor for social equality, truth and justice shows exactly what all the lies are meant to achieve—freedom for the deceivers among the ruling elite despite the injustice they have committed.

It is not as though we didn't know what we were getting ourselves into when we copied the cunning and aggressive ways of our colonial masters. We somehow knew deep within us that preserving the elitist ways in our society would only corrupt the entire democratic process. Indeed, it was obvious enough from the start that the privileged few would continue their abusive ways to the detriment of the marginalized majority.

This certainly explains why the large companies today are in the habit of dictating government policies, and why the Filipino consumers have to suffer the periodic increases in the prices of products and services. This must mean that we now need to revive the old fervor of nationalism in our hearts, if only to help us realize that the American dictates on our government have somehow made our leaders subservient to Western commercialism—and elitism—even to the extent of disregarding the Filipino people's most basic needs for subsistence. Indeed, because our leaders have been bribed into preserving a method of aggressive and greedy leadership, how would they respect the people's need for truth, equality and social justice?

Isn't it time we weeded the corrupt leaders out first before installing new leaders with lofty ideals? Isn't this the only way to put an end to the corrupt leadership in our country? Why do we always wait for the military and police to help us do it?

—ERNESTO K. MAGTOTO,
Las Piñas,
ernestomagtoto@yahoo.com

The dangers of political diabetes

THE BANANA-EATING-BREAK during the Senate investigation of National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales reminded me of Al Pacino ("The Godfather, Part III"), when he had a diabetic attack while being coaxed by Cardinal Lamberto to confess his sins.

The main difference between fact and fiction is the choice of a sugary antidote which, in the case of Gonzales, was a ripe banana instead of orange juice and a piece of candy in the case of Pacino. And finally, Godfather Pacino, despite a little hesitance at the start, caved in and confessed his criminal past to Cardinal Lamberto. Gonzales, in contrast, was simply evasive in divulging his lobbying intercession to the members of the Senate investigating committee even after three hours of discreet grilling. He was eventually cited for contempt and ordered detained at the Philippine Heart Center.

Meanwhile, discerning Filipino observers can only hope that he recovers within a reasonable period after his confinement and be strong and candid enough to tell the whole truth about this sordid affair. There should be no room for lies and evasions when diabetes hangs precariously over one's "sweet" head. After all, it is a treacherous disease and could be aggravated by intransigence, feigned innocence and canine loyalty to one's benefactor.

—PERCIVAL B. PADUA,
20 Union St., San Jose,
Navotas, Metro Manila

How will the November 1 implementation of EVAT affect your life?

d implementation of eVAT is like economic terrorism, slowly killing d majority poor Filipino people.
—Emilia P. Billanes, 40, *Koronadal City*

Yes, d rich pays a big chunk of eVAT, but d poor lyk me still suffer most, coz d smallest chunk we culd hardly even have
—Prudy Bautista, 58, *QC*

being a below-average incOme earner, eVat means sacrificing d quality of sOme of our basic needs, lyk buying 2nd or 3rd quality prOducts.
—diwata abe, 22 CSEZ, *Pampanga*

Our family has to make adjustments to survive on our fast-declining buying power due to stagnant income..
—joseph a. dumuk, 57, *san fernando, la union*

Positive!, it creates year-end shock 2my pockets, but gud 4 RP economy in d long run.
—JOY ALIGANGA, 40, *TOLEDO CITY*

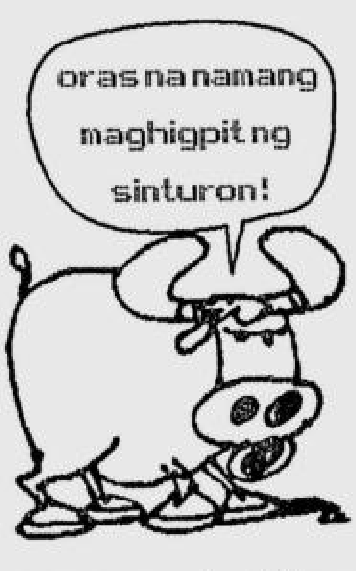
On a positive note, we will go back 2 d very simple life of my childhood.. homecooking, books, games, stories, homecraft, gifts.. Bye 2 malls
—joy limcangco, 36, *las pinas*

A domino effect will surely happen in this pyramidal structured economy, me being affected..
—Jun Cempron, 41, *Cagayan de Oro*

Tremendously! We have to tighten our already-tightened belts especially so with no increase in salary!
—Ramon Zulueta, 48, *La union*

d eVAT is a FANG of d govt. 2 suck us 2 death. if dis wil go on, maybe I'll be 1 of d taOng grAsa of this natiOn in d future..
—adonis p. olbes, 16, *sorsogon city*

No effect at all! Am used 2 hard life already, can skip a meal if dats



what it takes 2 survive. what have i 2 lose?
—gerry singson, *vigan city*

eVat that will take effect Nov1 will surely affect my budget. Prices will go up. More money is spent rather than saved..
—hazel caibigan, 24, *lipa city*

IT WILL AFECT MY LIFE by my BUYING GOODS that are affected by the EVAT.
—bulacaN

eVat means more belt-tightening measures 2 expand d purchasing power of my measly salary
—jeofrey abalos, 19, *binmaley*

D increase of vat affects my daily baOn, 2 transpOrt fare, foOd and a lot mOre.. It can dim our future..
—Jurilex, Maglinte, 12, *Tandag S.D.S.*

the implementation of evat will surely make my life empty-handed than rats.
—jan-eric villaganas, 25, *cavite city*

dis eVat really make my savings harder since i have 2 add more on gas, electricity expenses. Goshhh...
—mark climaco, 26, *manila*

The implementation of eVAT will mean longer hours of staying at home, instead of malling, watching movies & dining out.
—Edgardo S. Maligat, 45, *Manila*

A poor guy lyk me is bound 2 suffer more on eVAT coz d higher chunk d rich pays, maybe negligible 2 them.. The rich pays a big chunk of eVAT but d poor lyk me stil suffer most, coz d smallest chunk we culd hardly even afford. :-(
—prudy bautista, 58, *QC*

EVAT would make me WANT to get the LOOSE CHANGE in MY FARE and PLACE it in my PIGGYBANK!
—LORENZ NAMALATA, 12, *CDO*

The eVAT has taught my family to be conscious about our spending habits. Mindless buying & unnecessary spending
—domingo p. fregillana, III, 37, *marikina city*

i will pray 2 GOD more often 2 pls stop giving enlightenment to Gma bcause its not doing the Filipinos any good.
—arnold mendez, 39, *maragondon, cavite*

evat 4 me is also expanding my monthly-budgeted expenses.
nilo n. carbonilla, 32, *maasin city*

eVAT will make me poorer than ever --balancing d family budget will be next 2 impossible.
Ayayay! :(
—malou padrejuan, 45, *pasay city*

It had AFFECTED me bcoz IT will put STRAIN in BUDGETTING my ALLOWANCE.. & ALL of us FILIPINOS WILL SUFFER. .
—gemelene magalona, 16, *quezon city*

i likened to a song, KILLING ME SOFTLY. i just hope & pray that this eVAT will not result to corruption. hirap ang buhay.
—Jerome Fernandez, *Quezon city*

I view it as a way of HELPING the STRUGLING ECONOMY of MY BELOVED COUNTRY. I DO HOPE IT GOES WHERE IT SHUD. At LEAST.
—Joseph Venturina, 26, *Manila*

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

A13

Across the NATION

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Tollway firm sues ex-chair for estafa

CALAMBA CITY—A TOLLWAY COMPANY OPERATING THE STAR (Southern Tagalog Arterial Road) Tollway in Batangas has filed 21 counts of estafa against its former chair for alleged irregularities in the release of funds amounting to more than P92 million.

Caesar Quiambao, past chair of the Star Infrastructure Development Corp. (SIDC), is now facing the P92-million estafa cases before the Pasig City prosecutor's office for issuing "questionable cash advances" to companies, which his family allegedly owns.

Lawyer Bede Tabalingcos, SIDC counsel, said the company filed the cases after an audit report done by the well-known accounting firm Sycip, Gorres, Velayo & Co. (SGV) showed that Quiambao caused the release of funds from SIDC without the approval of the SIDC board of directors.

He said the audit report covered the firm's financial transactions from 1998 to 2001.

Tabalingcos said the discovery of the irregularities led to the expulsion of Quiambao from the company a few months ago.

SIDC is a joint venture among six companies, including Quiambao's Strategic Development Corp. (Stradec), he said.

The audit report showed that Quiambao released the money to contractors like Stradec and three other companies, which are supposedly owned by Quiambao's family.

"The auditors found out that the money were released only as 'cash advances.' But it did not specify why the money was released and why (SIDC) paid those firms," Tabalingcos told the INQUIRER.

"There were no services rendered, no contracts and no products delivered to the company. In short, he siphoned the money to his companies," he added.

He said the irregularities led to the delay of the multimillion-peso road project that will connect the Calamba portion of the South Luzon Expressway to the Sto. Tomas, Batangas part of the STAR Tollway.

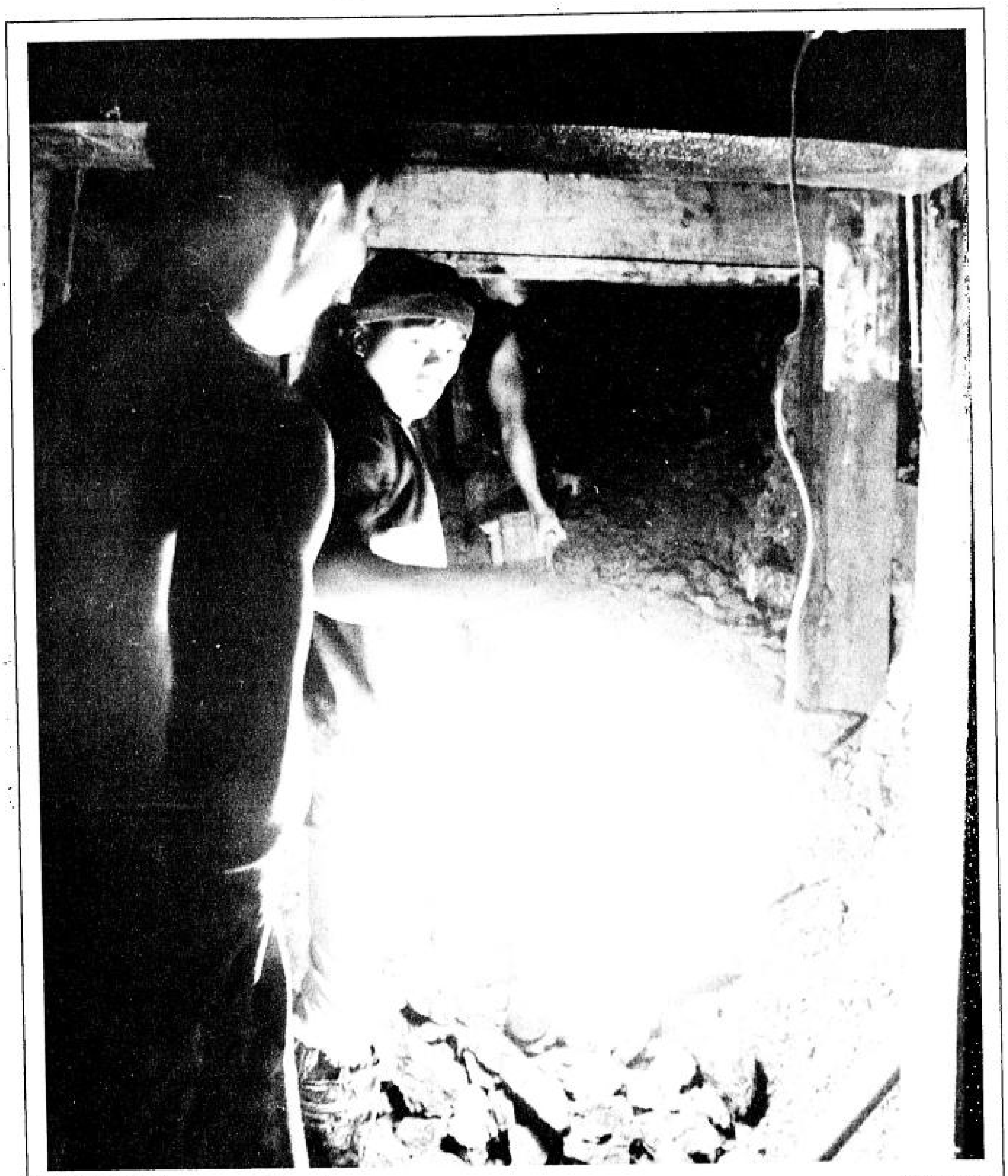
"But since he was kicked out from the company, SIDC has now regained the trust of its foreign partners," Tabalingcos added.

He said the SIDC is expecting to unearth other irregularities in the fiscal transactions of Quiambao once the audit report for the year 2002-2005 is done.

Among the deals being investigated by the board of directors is how a P150-million bank loan incurred by the SIDC was spent under Quiambao, he said.

Quiambao vehemently denied the accusations against him and labeled them as "harassment suits."

"These estafa cases are harassment suits and preemptive leverage against me because of the fraudulent transfer of my company's (Stradec) substantial stockholdings in STAR Tollway," he said in a text message sent to the INQUIRER. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



SUNSHINE

PAT ROQUE/AP

The only light available in this tunnel in Mt. Diwata, Compostela Valley is that from an electricity powered lantern being held by a miner as he and a colleague dig manually for gold ore, which has driven thousands of people to the mountain in search of their share of the sunshine, wealth from finding gold.

Communist guerrillas raid cult church, kill 3 cultists, hurt 3

BUTUAN CITY—GUERRILLAS RAIDED A church owned by an anti-communist cult in a remote village here and killed three persons and wounded three others.

Senior Supt. Ramon Espiritu, city police chief, said the victims, members of the cult Independent Benevolent Missionary Association (IBMA), were preparing for a ritual when attacked by the rebels, numbering around 20, in Sitio Sangay, Bugsukan Village, at around 8 a.m.

Espiritu said armed IBMA members tried to fight back but were overpowered by the rebels.

The attack came just days after the NPA warned IBMA officials of punitive actions because of its anti-communist activities in the area.

Killed were Teodoro Boloran, Cyrus Iterma and Alfredo Marinduque.

Espiritu condemned the killing, saying the cultists were noncombatants that must be spared from the armed conflict.

"This is outrageous because the victims are members of a civilian-religious group," he said.

Army spokesperson Maj. Bartolome Bacarro said the NPA rebels shot the civilians Sunday as they were cleaning the chapel in Butuan, about 790 km southeast of Manila.

He said the attack was in revenge for the cultists' refusal to join the guerrillas. *Franklin A. Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau with AP*

Unicef report questions role of youth councils to help kids

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—DOES the Sangguniang Kabataan truly represent Filipino children, who are fighting to escape from all forms of violence in their midst?

That's the core of a United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) study that will supplement a Philippine report on violence against children, said Lina Laygo, executive director of the Council for the Welfare of Children.

Fifty-one children, representing the country's 40 million toddlers, grade school pupils, and teenagers, endorsed the final Philippine report to the Unicef during a national consultation on Sunday here. The Philippine report, which will be released by yearend, will contribute to a universal children's report for 2006.

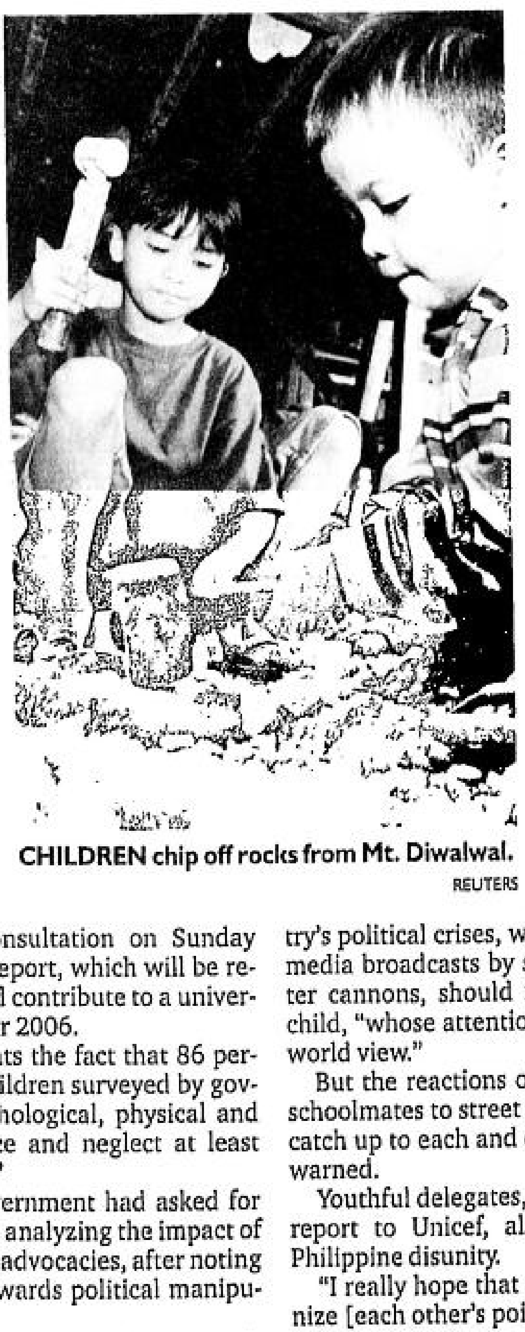
The report highlights the fact that 86 percent of the Filipino children surveyed by government suffer "psychological, physical and sexual abuse, violence and neglect at least once in their lifetime."

Laygo said the government had asked for Unicef intervention in analyzing the impact of the SK on child-rights advocacies, after noting a disturbing trend towards political manipulation.

The SK should have cemented the country's prominence as one of the few child-friendly states in the world because the Philippines has institutionalized a system that allows children to be active in governance.

The Local Government Code grants the SK a seat in municipal, city and provincial legislative bodies.

But Laygo said the SK "has lost its way" because it has become a breeding ground for future politicians when it should be a forum for introducing children friendly legislation.



CHILDREN chip off rocks from Mt. Diwalwal.

REUTERS

Often, she said, politicians also interfere in the selection of SK representation in these councils.

The report would help the government decide whether it would retain the SK in proposed reforms for local autonomy, she said.

She said feedback from the various children councils in the country also raise the same questions about the SK.

Laygo said the key to protecting children's rights is the youth's uncompromised access to governance. "Don't let the disunity [discourage you from becoming involved] in governance," she told the consultation delegates.

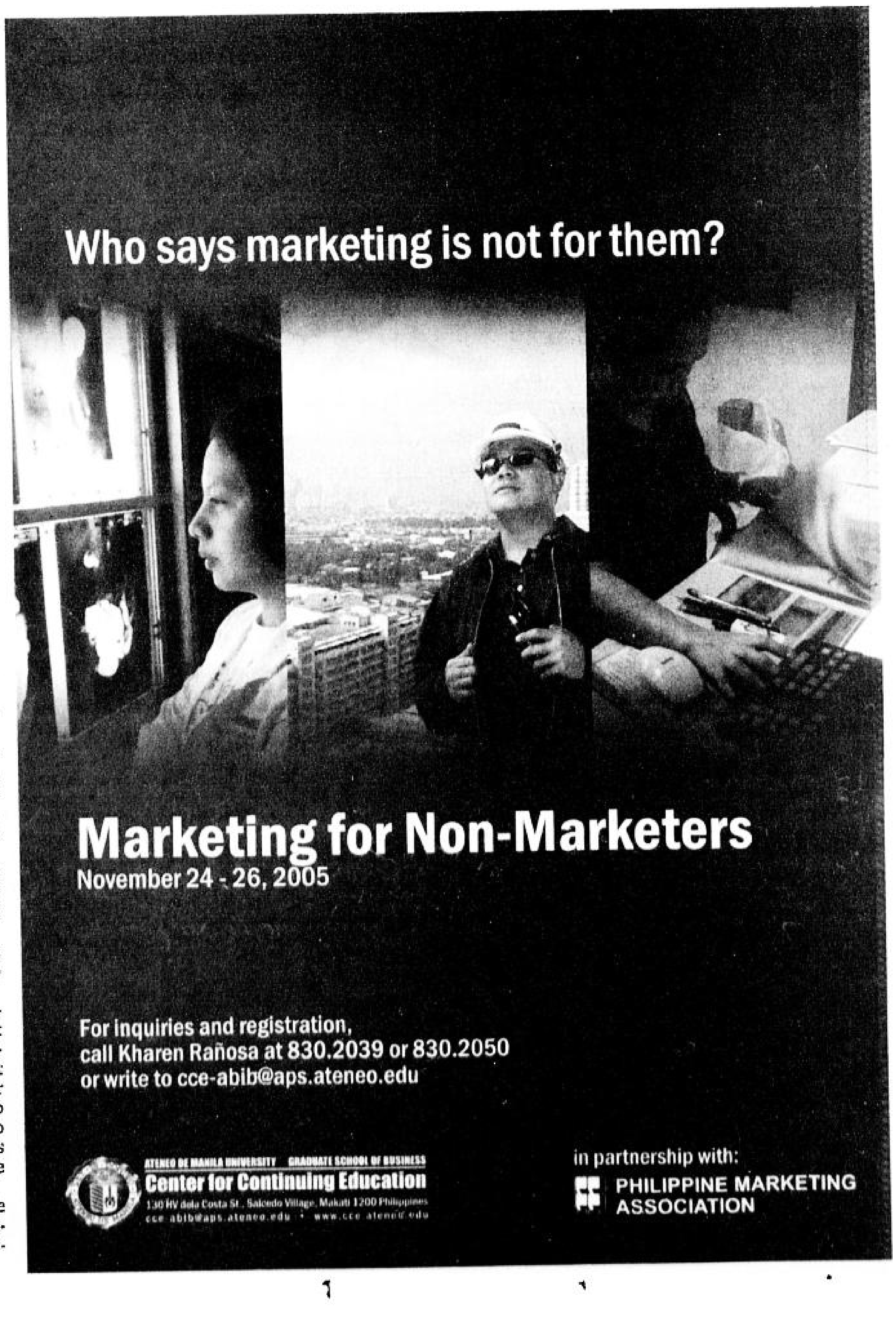
She said the country's political crises, which are emphasized in media broadcasts by street marches and water cannons, should not harm the ordinary child, "whose attention is devoted to his own world view."

But the reactions of teachers, parents and schoolmates to street violence will eventually catch up to each and every Filipino child, she warned.

Youthful delegates, who saw the Philippine report to Unicef, also reacted strongly to Philippine disunity.

"I really hope that once we begin to recognize [each other's points of view], we will not react with jealousy... We must learn to respect each other and help each other speak out because even though we all pray to Allah for guidance, he cannot help us if we do not help ourselves," said a 17-year-old state ward, who called herself as "A" when each delegate was asked to share the Philippine report's life lessons.

The delegates also asked for better juvenile justice policies because, they said, "street children are still beaten up for making small mistakes."



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Consumers in provinces seen paying Manila power

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—THE GOVERNMENT failed to explain why over six million consumers from the provinces will end up shouldering the power consumption of Metro Manila, despite assurances from the finance department that the expanded value-added tax on power and fuel will be mitigated, the Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives (Apec) said here.

Shell game

Luis Manuel Corral, Apec secretary general, said Malacañang is playing "a shell game" because they have not revealed the fact that local cooperatives are still expected to pay local franchise taxes.

Already burdened by a 10-percent VAT, all 119 electric cooperatives are therefore expected to further increase future power rates by another 2 percent, unlike the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco).

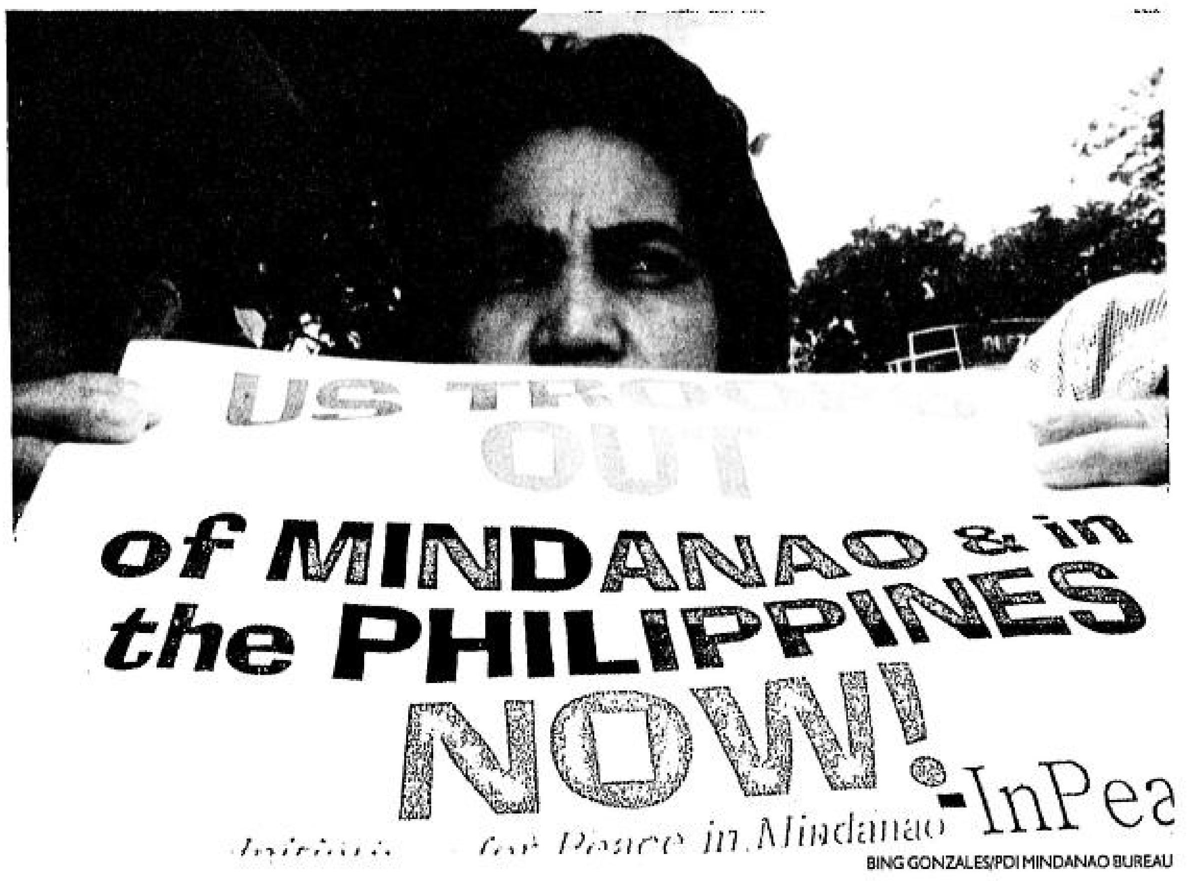
Cushion

The VAT law removed Meralco's national franchise tax, allowing it to increase power rates by only 8 percent. Corral said the Department of Finance described this action as one of the measures that would help cushion the impact of VAT on power on consumers.

But while the VAT law amended the 2001 Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) to remove Meralco's tax burden, it did not amend the Local Government Code, he said.

Local autonomy laws grant local governments the right to impose local franchise taxes.

"This is a case of the much poorer provinces subsidizing the VAT collections of government... So six million rural—mostly poor—households will end up percentage-wise, and in real terms, paying a higher VAT on power than the 4.5 million Metro Manila residents," Corral said.



BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

A MEMBER of the militant group Gabriela joins a protest rally in Davao City to demand the withdrawal of American troops in reaction to the rape of a student in Subic allegedly by US soldiers.

Mayor says US troops in rape deserve to be made fish meal

DAVAO CITY—THIS CITY'S MAYOR, KNOWN to talk tough, yesterday said he would have made fish meal out of the five American soldiers accused of raping a college student in Subic if they committed the crime here.

"If it happened here, I will throw them (American soldiers) to the Davao Gulf and allow fish to feast on them. Another flavor for the fish then," Mayor Rodrigo Duterte said during his weekly TV program on Sunday.

Known for his sharp tongue, Duterte called the suspects idiots.

And as if to issue a stern warning, Duterte said: "I will arrest every American strutting around my city, carrying a gun, and acting as if he is a Filipino... they should behave here properly."

But he was also quick to appeal to the people not to be too emotional about the reported rape in Subic.

Anti-war games

Duterte said the rape in Subic was one of the reasons he has been consistently wary about allowing American and Filipino soldiers to conduct military exercises here.

He said the government and its agreement with the US government should take all the blame for the Subic rape.

"The government has to be blamed... for allowing Americans to go here and rape our women," Duterte said, adding that was the best time to review or scrap the visiting forces agreement (VFA) between the Philippine and US governments.

"What is surprising about the holding of joint military exercises is that we don't really expect a large-scale enemy invasion. But thanks to the equipment of the Americans," the mayor said.

Concerns

"What we are worried about is terrorism and what we need are warm bodies on the street for intelligence and detection," he added.

He also said that compared to their Filipino counterparts, American soldiers are less talented and skillful. He said Filipino soldiers are 10 times better than the Americans "who are afraid to die."

He also criticized what he called the sordid history of American soldiers in Asia.

"The Americans perpetrated at least 60,000 crimes while they were in Asia for many years, including rapes and other crimes... this is the reason why I don't want the holding of the military exercises in Davao," he said.

The alleged rape was also condemned by the party-list group Suara Bangsamoro.

"We challenge the Philippine government and the Visiting Forces Agreement commission to make the appropriate decision over this matter, justice should be given to the rape victim and not immunity to the US soldiers who are perpetrators of rape," said Amirah Ali Lidasan, national vice chair of Suara Bangsamoro.

Lidasan said they could not help but be scared for the fate of the women in their communities in Mindanao where there is an overwhelming presence of US soldiers on humanitarian and training missions together with the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"We call for the US troops to leave our communities. We will always be insecure in our communities should the government fail to address the call for prosecution of the US servicemen (in the Subic rape)," she said.

In 2002, the US government was also successful in whisking away an American soldier who was accused of shooting a Moro farmer during the US-RP combat operation in Basilan.

To justify the shooting, the Philippine government instead arrested and detained the victim, Buyung-Buyung Isnijal, and accused him of being an Abu Sayyaf member, Lidasan said. *Jeffrey M. Tupas and Jeoffery Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Simpleng Kaligayahan
Ang sarap makauwi!
Ang sarap makapasyal!

DOMESTIC FLIGHTS

FLT. NO.	ETD	ETA	FLT. NO.	ETD	ETA	FREQ.
MANILA to BACOLOD			**BACOLOD to MANILA**			
2P 765	0700	0810	2P 766	1410	1520	Daily
MANILA to CAGAYAN DE ORO			**CAGAYAN DE ORO to MANILA**			
2P 533	0840	1005	2P 534	1035	1200	Daily
MANILA to CEBU			**CEBU to MANILA**			
765-011 via BCD	0700	0915	----	----	----	Daily
733-021 via ILO	0700	0915	----	----	----	Daily
2P 773	0800	0910	2P 774	1310	1420	Daily
MANILA to DAVAO			**DAVAO to MANILA**			
773-026 via CEB	0800	1050	027-774 via CEB	1140	1420	Daily
2P 543	1600	1740	2P 544	1810	1950	Daily
MANILA to DUMAGUETE			**DUMAGUETE to MANILA**			
2P 791	0545	0700	2P 792	0730	0845	Mo-Tu-Th-Sa
2P 793	1500	1615	2P 794	1645	1800	Daily
MANILA to GENERAL SANTOS			**GENERAL SANTOS to MANILA**			
773 via CEB	0800	1100	774 via CEB	1130	1420	Daily
MANILA to ILOILO			**ILOILO to MANILA**			
2P 731	0500	0605	2P 732	0700	0805	Daily
2P 733	0700	0805	2P 734	1420	1525	Daily
2P 737	1605	1710	2P 738	1740	1845	Daily
MANILA to PUERTO PRINCESA			**PUERTO PRINCESA to MANILA**			
2P 213	0915	1025	2P 214	1100	1210	Daily
MANILA to TUGUEGARAO			**TUGUEGARAO to MANILA**			
2P 220	1240	1330	2P 221	1400	1450	M / W / F
MANILA to ZAMBOANGA			**ZAMBOANGA to MANILA**			
2P 551	1250	1420	2P 552	1450	1620	Mo-Tu-We-Th-Sa
2P 551	1530	1700	2P 552	1730	1900	Friday
2P 773-040via CEB	0800	1055	2P 041-774 via CEB	1125	1420	Tu/Th/Su
CEBU to BACOLOD			**BACOLOD to CEBU**			
2P 010	1305	1340	2P 011	0840	0915	Daily
CEBU to DAVAO			**DAVAO to CEBU**			
2P 026	0955	1050	2P 027	1140	1235	Daily
CEBU to ILOILO			**ILOILO to CEBU**			
2P 020	1310	1350	2P 021	0835	0915	Daily
CEBU to GENERAL SANTOS			**GENERAL SANTOS to CEBU**			
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CEBU to ZAMBOANGA			**ZAMBOANGA to CEBU**			
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CEBU to PUERTO PRINCESA			**PUERTO PRINCESA to CEBU**			
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BACOLOD to DAVAO			**DAVAO to BACOLOD**			
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BACOLOD to PUERTO PRINCESA			**PUERTO PRINCESA to BACOLOD**			
011-013 via CEB	0840	1100	014-010 via CEB	1130	1340	Mo/We/Fr/Sa
BACOLOD to ZAMBOANGA			**ZAMBOANGA to BACOLOD**			
011-040 via CEB	0840	1055	041-010 via CEB	1125	1340	Tu/Th/Su
ILOILO to DAVAO			**DAVAO to ILOILO**			
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ILOILO to PUERTO PRINCESA			**PUERTO PRINCESA to ILOILO**			
021-013 via CEB	0835	1100	014-020 via CEB	1130	1350	Mo/We/Fr/Sa
ILOILO to ZAMBOANGA			**ZAMBOANGA to ILOILO**			
021-040 via CEB	0835	1055	041-020 via CEB	1125	1350	Tu/Th/Su
PUERTO PRINCESA to DUMAGUETE			**DUMAGUETE to PUERTO PRINCESA**			
2P 214	to connect	2P793	2P 792	to connect	2P213	Daily
DAVAO to PUERTO PRINCESA *			**PUERTO PRINCESA to DAVAO ***			
2P 027	to connect	2P 013	2P 014	to connect	2P026	Mo/We/Fr/Sa
ZAMBOANGA to PUERTO PRINCESA *			**PUERTO PRINCESA to ZAMBOANGA ***			
2P 041	to connect	2P 013	2P 014	to connect	2P 040	Tu/Th/Su
			CAGAYAN de ORO to ILOILO			
----	----	----	2P 534	to connect	2P737	Daily

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MANILA to CANTON (GUANGZHOU)			**CANTON (GUANGZHOU) to MANILA**			
2P 052	1700	1905	2P 053	2000	2205	Thursday NEW
2P 052	1400	1600 (Fri)	2P 053	2040	2245 (Sun)	2P 052 (Fri) & 2P 053 (Sun)
MANILA to SHENZHEN			**SHENZHEN to MANILA**			
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NBI busts firearms-for-hire syndicate

ARMS for rent? Suspect Tabing (second from left) with NBI'sWycoco (right). REM ZAMORA

By Margaux C. Ortiz

DRUG SYNDICATES ARE ENgaged in a new and equally lucrative form of business.

National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) officials made the disclosure yesterday as they presented a suspected member of a notorious drug group which allegedly rents out high powered firearms to bank robbers and kidnappers.

Jericho "Jerry" Tabing, 28, of No. 37 Anabu 2, Imus, Cavite, was arrested during a raid conducted by agents of the NBI Reaction, Arrest and Interdiction Division (RAID) and the bureau's National Capital Region (NCR) Office last Friday.

Tabing is allegedly part of the notorious Sarno/Alindog group, a local drug syndicate operating in Metro Manila and other Southern Tagalog areas, including Cavite province. Lance Ramos, alias Andy or Rolando Ramos, Tabing's housemate, remains at large.

"Apart from drug dealing, the group also rents out high powered weapons to other criminal groups," said NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco. Dealers do not normally use powerful assault weapons like the ones seized from the Sarno/Alindog group during their drug-related transactions, he added.

Among the firearms seized from the suspect was an HK MP 5 9mm sub-machine gun, which Wycoco said was "one of the finest assault weapons ever made. We do not even have this weapon because it is too expensive." The HK MP 5 costs P220,000 to P250,000 in the black market.

NBI agents also seized an Ultimax machine gun, an assault weapon designed for heavy combat and "usually handled only by outlaws."

"These kinds of firearms are not issued to our law enforcers, making them vulnerable to some criminal groups who have access to such sophisticated equipment," Wycoco said.

Also confiscated were an M-14 (Winchester) rifle with a loaded magazine, a Calico 9mm rifle with a helical-fed magazine, an Elisco M-16 Baby Armalite with a loaded magazine, a Bentley 12-gauge shotgun, a Walther caliber .22 LR rifle, a Remington model 700 caliber 7mm bolt-action rifle, and different ammunition for calibers .22, 5.56 M-14, and 12-gauge shotgun.

"Based on other ammunition and magazines seized, there could still be weapons kept by the group which they may have hidden or rented out," Wycoco said.

MRT 3 gets brand-new electronic tickets

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MRT 3 IS FINALLY RETIRING worn tickets with the arrival of 125,000 new electronic passes.

Hundreds of thousands more were expected this week, railway officials said.

MRT 3 general manager Roberto Lastimoso said, by the end of the week, all tickets would be new. The railway spanning Edsa requires more than 400,000 tickets everyday.

Lastimoso said the arrival of the new passes would minimize the long queues.

Stored value cards

MRT spokesperson Mariano Gui said the agency could start selling stored value cards again. The railway system expected at least half-a-million new passes.

The MRT 3 had been short of electronic tickets since July when Malacañang stopped the agency from using passes with the photograph of former President Estrada.

Carrying a daily average of 420,000 passengers on weekdays, it made do with about 250,000 passes, resulting in long queues.

The MRT 3 also restricted the sale of stored value cards or those preloaded with P100 worth of rides because of the ticket shortage.

In addition to the tickets it ordered, government officials said a mystery donor was donating half-a-million electronic passes to MRT 3.

Is INC coddling a criminal?

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

HERE'S THE JULIUS Babao issue one last time. Okay, he didn't post bail for Tyrone Santos, a.k.a. Dawud Santos, as reported earlier. Military intelligence made the mistake of accusing Babao of posting Dawud's bail. But Dawud himself admitted Babao acted as guarantor for his bail bond.

Insurance companies don't issue bail bonds for Muslims charged in courts because most of them allegedly jump bail. So, insurance companies charge big sums for bail bonds of accused Muslims. Because Summit insurance and Surety Bonds wouldn't trust Dawud, Babao acted as guarantor.

Posting bail for the accused and acting as his guarantor in the insurance company amount to the same thing. Santos wouldn't have been released had not Babao used his reputation and influence to set him free.

I would be the last man to accuse a fellow journalist of wrongdoing if I thought he didn't do wrong. Being a controversial columnist, I also get hurt when fellow journalists write adverse reports about me. Moreover, Julius is my brother Erwin's *compadre* and close friend. I must tell you that I also got pressure from Erwin.

But I would be remiss in my job if I didn't point out Babao's mistake. Julius probably didn't have any malice in mind when he sprang Santos from detention since the latter's offense was bailable. But he should have drawn the line between his personal feelings for Dawud and his professional, as well as the public's interest. Reporters who cover controversial stories have to be objective, meaning they should not take sides.

* * *

Public interest should take priority over personal feelings. And so it goes that I have to criticize this time the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC), a religious sect that I have high respect for, for coddling a convicted criminal.

Perhaps INC Chief Minister Eraño "Ka Erdie" Manalo doesn't know this but one of its members who was convicted by the courts was able to get back into the Philippine National Police using the influence of the INC.

Supt. Jerry Valeroso, now chief of the Anti-illegal drug task force of the National Capital Region Police Office, was convicted in 1996 of grave coercion.

He got off on a lesser offense from the original kidnapping for ransom. Somehow, the kidnapping for ransom charge was downgraded to grave coercion.

Valeroso still has to serve a six year prison term for illegal possession of firearms which came at the same time with the grave coercion charge, apart from six months for grave coercion.

But NBP records show he wasn't jailed after posting bail. Valeroso was kicked out of the PNP as a result of those convictions.

Several years ago, upon the intercession of a certain Ka Rudy de Vera, INC's chief minister for Tarlac, Valeroso got back into the service.

If this is not coddling or harboring a convicted criminal, I don't know what is.

Detained for no cause

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A JAPANESE CITIZEN, WHO WAS reported to have been kidnapped in Malabon City, showed up yesterday at police headquarters to file abduction charges against three Quezon City anti-drugs operatives.

Supt. Alfred Corpus, chief of the Northern Police District Intelligence and Investigation Departmen, said Tadayuki Kira, 49, of Kaunlaran Village, Barangay Longos in Malabon, had complained he was arrested on trumped-up charges with no charges filed against him and detained overnight.

Kira filed a complaint against PO3 Roderick Valencia and two unidentified policemen supposedly assigned to the anti-drugs unit in Camp Karingal, Quezon City. He claimed the policemen confronted him as he was walking with his wife along Pampano Street in Malabon, and showed him a warrant of arrest under the name "Peter Chua."

Kira said the suspects forced him inside a car and brought him to Camp Caringal. He was later released the following day.

METROBRIEFS

Marikina ready for SEAG

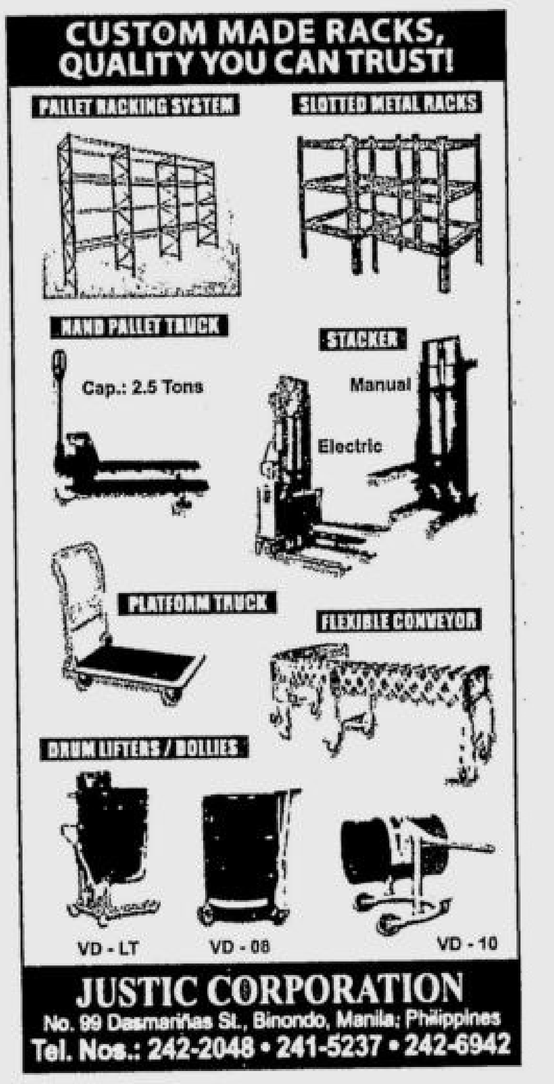
PANG INTERNATIONAL NA ANG MARIKINA !

HOSTING an event for the coming 23rd Southeast Asian Games (SEAG) cost the Marikina City government more than P15 million for improvements on its sports park. Located in front of its City Hall, the sports park will be the venue for the women's football competition. Five countries are expected to join the tilt. Mayor Marides Fernando said that apart from the football field, which had to be expanded to suit SEAG standards, they also improved the toilets, rooms, lockers and the lighting in the sports park. The formal opening program for the 23rd SEAG, which the country will host this year, will be on Nov. 27 at the Luneta Park in Manila. But elimination games for women's football contest will start as early as Nov. 20. More than a hundred players and game officials from participating Asian countries are expected to arrive in the city. Police chief Senior Supt. Manuel Gaerlan said about 250 policemen, together with operatives from the National Capital Region Police Office, will be on hand to monitor security concerns at the affair. ***Edson C. Tandoc Jr.***

Export mart seminar

LEADING Edge Forum for Excellence Inc. (LEFFE), a group of entrepreneurs and marketing professionals, will hold an export marketing seminar on Nov. 9 at the Business Conference Center, Export Bank, Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City. The seminar will have for its theme, "Winning Strategies for Exporting." For reservations , contact LEFFE at 5310084; 0919-2299777; 0919-2299780; and 0915-7804379 or send an e-mail to leffeinc@yahoo.com or leffe@pldtdsl.net

PRESIDENT EMERITUS
Br. Andrew Gonzalez FSC (third from left) was conferred the title of President Emeritus of De La Salle University recently. With him are DLSU System President Br. Armin Luistro FSC, Brother Visitor Br. Edmundo Fernandez FSC, and Dr. Carmelita Quebengco, DLSU-Manila executive vice president.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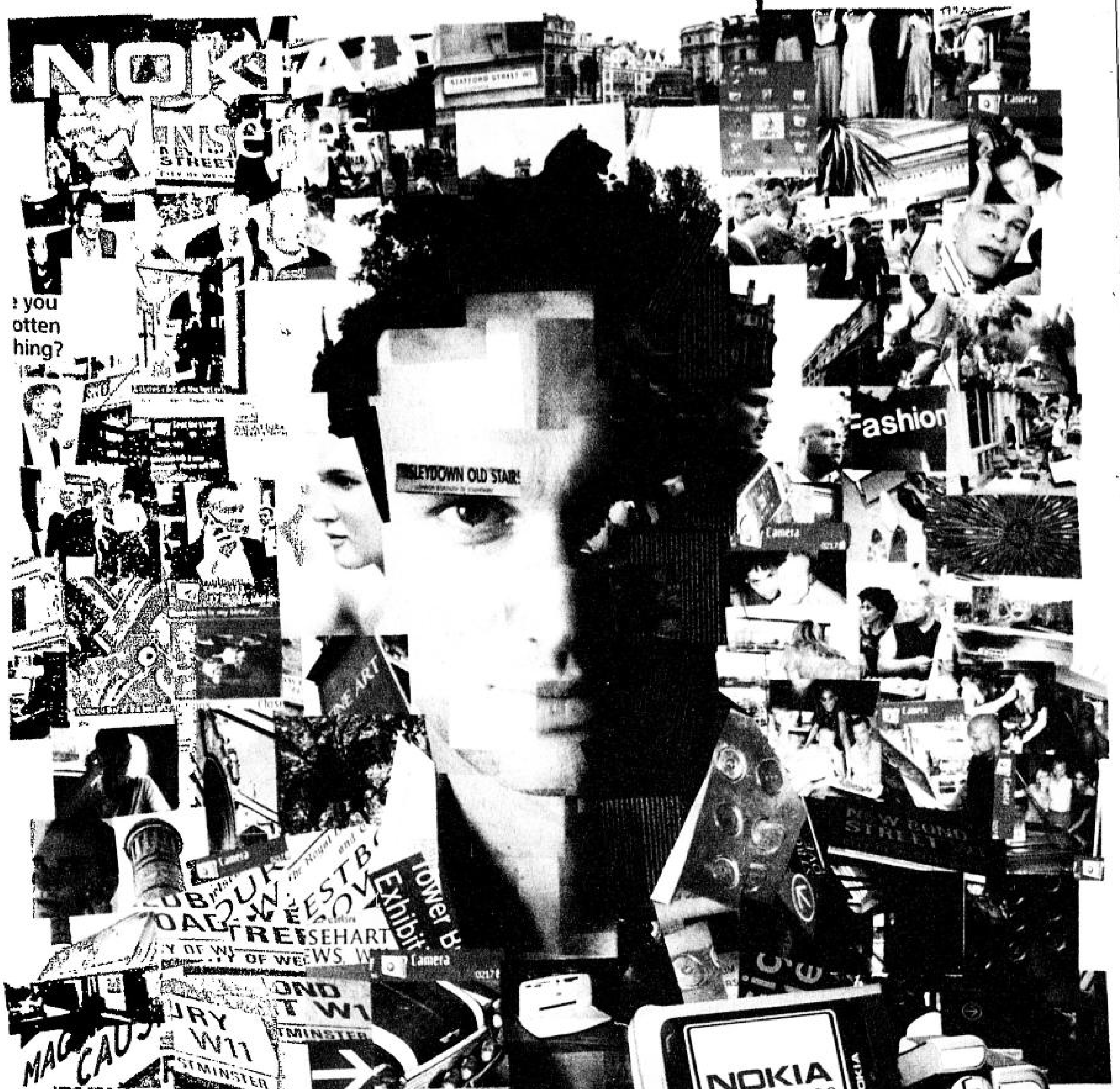
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Rod Strunk extradition sought anew

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ) IS set to file another request for the extradition of the suspected mastermind in the killing of actress Nida Blanca.

Director Reynaldo Wycoco of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) said yesterday the second request for the extradition of Blanca's husband, Rod Strunk, would include statements from three witnesses who were at the crime scene four years ago. "We are hopeful since the case has become more solid with the testimonies of witnesses who surfaced recently," Wycoco said.

BLANCA

The Department of Justice would submit the papers to the Department of Foreign Affairs, which would then make the extradition request to the United States Department of State and the US' own DOJ. "The US DOJ will do the lawyering for us," the NBI head said.

He added the government already placed witnesses Andrada "Anji" Dalandas, Fedelyn "Mariz" Canonio and Ranny Francisco under the Witness Protection Program.

California Judge Gregory Hollows denied the government's first extradition request in 2003 due to "conflicting and inconsistent evidence" submitted. Dalandas identified, through NBI pictures, Strunk, Philip Medel Jr. and businessman Mike Martinez, as among the four men who brought an unconscious Blanca to the Atlanta Center. She also claimed she saw Medel punch Blanca on the left side of her face as she was transferred to her car.

Strunk and Medel had been charged in the Pasig City Regional Court with the actress' murder. Strunk left the country in 2002 and has since refused to return to the Philippines.

Family and friends of the actress marked her fourth death anniversary yesterday. "We feel frustrated, but we are hoping the case will be solved," said Caridad Sanchez, Blanca's close friend. "God is the best judge."

With Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Manila sets new traffic rules

By Tina G. Santos

THE MANILA GOVERNMENT STARTED IMPLEMENTING yesterday a new traffic code to the dismay of some motorists and jeepney drivers.

The code, approved by the City Council in March, is the uniform ordinance Metro Manila cities and municipalities agreed to adopt. It reverts traffic ticketing from the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to local governments. Instead of the MMDA's traffic tickets, violators would now get Ordinance Violation Receipts (OVRs), Manuel Mendoza, chief of the Manila Traffic and Parking Bureau, said earlier.

But some motorists and jeepney drivers were not happy with the news. Larry Co, 45, a retailer in Binondo, said the local government should no longer create its own traffic rules. "There should only be one agency to manage traffic in Metro Manila," he said. Jeepney driver Greg Tarnate, 52, said the new traffic code only added to the confusion as motorists no longer knew whom to follow.

But Mayor Lito Atienza, president of the Metro Manila Mayors League, urged the MMDA earlier to restudy its mandate and not to meddle in the implementation of the traffic regulations." The MMDA should only harmonize and coordinate with the LGUs (local government units)," the mayor said. A technical working group composed of representatives of LGUs in Metro Manila could put local traffic rules into one code.

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Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

O'Hara cops 2nd behind Mikola

RP hope Sy ends up 4th

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ROSARIO, BATANGAS—JOHN O'HARA OF IRELAND swept the last two races of the Asian Formula Three Philippine Grand Prix Sunday and snatched second overall from Filipino Tyson Sy and Briton James Winslow at the Batangas Racing Circuit here.

Taking off from where he left off in Round 11 earlier Sunday, the 24-year-old O'Hara, of Shell Helix Kinetic PCSO, ruled the series-ending Round 12 in 15 minutes and 33.954 seconds for his third victory this season in the nation-hopping series before a capacity crowd that included 200 Indonesian students cheering for runaway winner Ananda Mikola.

AF3 OVERALL STANDINGS
After 12 races

P	Name	Country	Points
1.	Ananda Mikola	Indonesia	154
2.	John O'Hara	Ireland	119
3.	James Winslow	Great Britain	110
4.	Tyson Sy	Philippines	109
5.	Rodolfo Avila	Macau	95
6.	Dado Peña	Philippines	85
7.	Christian Jones	Australia	72
8.	Pepon Marave	Philippines	57
9.	Moreno Soeprapto	Indonesia	52
10.	Lee Farrell	Ireland	29

Mikola, of Fastron Racing with Threebond, settled for second in 15:43.963 and finished the season with 154 points, 35 ahead of O'Hara.

The Irishman ended the series by clinching 40 points, powering him to second from fourth in the series sponsored by Addict Mobile, PLDT myDSL, Boysen Paints, Yokohama Tires and Lima Hotel.

The 18-year-old Sy wound up fourth overall after crashing out in the final round with just two laps to go. He placed fourth in the morning race after a failed attempt to overtake Mikola.

Sy was looking good after 10 laps until he spun out. He lost control after misdjudging a corner near the grandstand stretch.

Winslow seized the chance to snare fourth place in Round 12 and gain 10 points, allowing him to finish third overall over Sy, 110-109.

It was a big turnaround for Winslow, who was disqualified for jumpstarting Sy at the start of Round 11 and, as a result, took off as last placer in Round 12.

O'Hara wound up with 119 points behind Mikola, who clinched the overall title when he finished third in Race 11.

"I didn't expect to finish second overall because I was far back before this leg," said O'Hara, who only had 79 points to show with two races to go. "I'm just happy that I came out strong in the final two races."

Macau's Rodolfo Avila, also of Fastron, came in third in Round 12 in 15:49.911.

Another Filipino teenage star Dado Peña of Goddard-Minardi Team Asia also encountered trouble when his car's front fender hit the back of Avila's car right in the first lap. He was forced to stop and failed to get back into the race.

Denso Hanjin Joson F3's Moreno Soeprapto, Mikola's half-brother, won second place behind race winner Emmet Queenan to run off with the overall championship in the Promotions class.

PCSO
36
Asian Formula

IRELAND'S John O'Hara (above) glides toward the finish. Inset, overall champion Ananda Mikola (left) and O'Hara celebrate their victories. ROMY HOMILLADA

Battle of the Courts
TRIP FOR TEN (10) TO HONGKONG DISNEYLAND

CENTRO Atletico's battling champs show the prize awarded to them by PDI chair Marixi Prieto (extreme left) and president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez (standing third from left). RODEL ROTONI

Lean but able medical crew for SEAG

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THERE WILL JUST BE 80 DOCTORS, nurses and para-medical practitioners who will ensure the health safety of about 10,000 athletes and officials taking part in the Southeast Asian Games late this month.

But SEAG medical chief Jose Raul Canlas said their lean crew will be supported by 480 personnel who will be strategically assigned to 41 sports events that will be scattered in four key venues.

Canlas, the director of the Philippine Center for Sports Medicine, said they are working hand in hand with the Philippine Academy of Family Physicians to make sure athletes who will get sick, injured or wounded will be given swift and expert attention.

"We are also taking care of the environmental concerns as well as sanitation and food of the athletes," said Canlas.

But the three main tasks of his group, according to Canlas, are to provide medical coverage, conduct doping tests and

LEAN/A18

NBA tiffs on TV

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19 days to go
Basta Pinoy. Posible.
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FINALS SWEEP

Centro Atletico nails Battle of Courts title

By Jasmine W. Payo

THEY WERE THE NEW KIDS ON THE block. But no one took the competition more seriously than Centro Atletico.

"We knew we can give them a good fight, but we weren't expecting to be champions," said Salvador "Badong" Banquiles, coach and co-owner of the Cubao-based badminton club.

After almost a year of training, tournament rookie Centro Atletico swept defending titlist The Zone to bag the crown in the 2005 Battle of the Courts: National Interclub Badminton Championship late Sunday night at the Rockwell tent.

Breezing through an early 14-1 lead in the first set, Marife Durana and Beth Pulido easily took the ladies' doubles with a 15-2, 15-6 victory over Lhit Pascual and Lyca Ballesteros.

Although slightly threatened in the men's contest, Centro Atletico's Jofer Velez and Howard Vitas survived Alvin Ballesteros and Bubu Santos, 15-11, 15-12.

Centro Atletico co-owner Luigi Abad Santos credited Banquiles for forming and training the surprise winners.

"We won because of our coach and our players trained very hard," said Abad Santos. "We prepared for this for almost a year. Everybody sacrificed a lot."

And the sacrifice paid off as early as the elimination round where Centro Atletico emerged as the top seed in the northern leg of the nationwide competition.

"After the eliminations, we already knew our capabilities," said Abad Santos. "We saw that we had a shot at the championship."

And Centro Atletico, as predicted, marched into the top eight in dominating fashion.

In the quarterfinals, Centro Atletico swept

CENTRO/A18

EMI Jorge (right) smashes a lob shot as Centro Atletico partner Beth Pulido mans the net. RYAN LIM

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Donn Salamat, *Businessman*

Donn, 10 years ago

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InqBox Question of the Week

How will the November 1 implementation of eVAT affect your life?

Win this *Inquirer shirt

Senders of d best 20 texts as publishd in Tuesday's **InqBox** *wiL each receiv an *Inquirer Shirt!!*

Key in inquirer box name/age/city/message.
Text your answer to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
(Maximum of 160 characters)
*Metro Manila winners can call Jane at 8978808 local 335. Provincial winners can text:
inquirer ad name/age/city/mailing address to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them

New route for torch relay; Philsoc apologizes to LGUs

A NEW AND COMPACT ROUTE HAS BEEN approved for the torch relay of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games, preempting the collapse of the traditional activity over miscommunication and intrigues.

The Board of Trustees of the Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc) made the change recently in the light of the scant resources available for what was supposed to be a nationwide activity ahead of the country's hosting of the biennial meet from Nov. 27 to Dec. 5.

Originally set to pass through 15 key cities and towns, the torch relay has since been downsized and will only include areas where there are official SEAG venues.

In the original schedule, the torch relay was set to pass through Legaspi, Dumaguete, Cagayan de Oro, Malaybalay, Davao, Baybay, Daet, San Pablo, Cabanatuan, Tuguegarao, Vigan, San Fernando, Baguio, Dagupan and Laoag.

Several officials have earlier complained of the lack of coordination between Philsoc and the local government units (LGUs) promoting the activity.

Clarito Samson, Philsoc's media bureau chief, said the committee had to address the financial constraints in the Games' promotional activities.

But former Philsoc officer Vic Milan cited the committee's "insensitivity" to the LGUs' support.

"No one took the trouble to notify them and that's my frustration," said Milan, who recently resigned from his two positions as national torch relay project director and foreign media subcommittee chair.

Samson clarified that the LGUs were told to "wait for the confirmation" regarding the original schedule.

The Philsoc board is said to have already apologized and expressed its gratitude to all LGU officials who extended their support to the undertaking.

"The Board wishes to apologize to local government units that have indicated the desire to participate in the torch relay, particularly those which were included in the original plan," Philsoc said in a statement.

Local Government Secretary Angelo Reyes issued an administrative order last September calling on the LGUs to support the torch relay project.

In the rerouted plan, the flame will be fetched from Vietnam by wushu association president Julian Camacho. It be brought straight to Cebu City where officials of the Cebu Organizing Committee, along with Philsoc trustee and Bacolod City Rep. Monico Puentevella, will welcome it.

The torch relay begins in Cebu on Nov. 12 and will pass through Danao and Mandaue.

It proceeds to Bacolod on Nov. 15 before going to Subic, Clark and all venues within Metro Manila ahead of the opening ceremonies on Nov. 27 at the Quirino grandstand.

"It's nothing personal," said Samson. "We didn't raise their hopes nor kept them hanging." *With a report from Jasmine W. Payo*

Ginebra Kings on a streak with hot Menk

By June Navarro

COACH SIOT TANQUINGCEN SAYS BARANgay Ginebra is blessed with two imports. One plays in the perimeter while the other patrols the paint.

These are the roles played by Sean Lampley, the real import, and Eric Menk, the reigning league MVP who acts like one.

Together, they have powered the Gin Kings to four straight victories in the ongoing San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference.

But Menk has been creating a stronger impact since his return from suspension two weeks ago, leading the Kings to rousing wins over San Miguel Beer and Air21.

Last season's back-to-back Finals and conference MVP of the Fiesta and Philippine Cups proved to be the most consistent man on the floor with his 18.5-point and 17-rebound averages in the past two games.

"I just want to go out there and help the team any way I can," said Menk, the runaway choice for the PBA Press Corps Player of the Week plum.

"It feels really satisfying to see our team win, but this is just the eliminations. It's still a long way to go."

Menk's double-double effort (20 points and 17 rebounds) helped the Kings rise from a 10-point deficit to pull the rug from under the Beermen.

Four days later, Ginebra's "King of Kings" dished off another explosive performance with 17 points and 18 rebounds.

"He's (Menk) like an import," said Barangay Ginebra coach Siot Tanquingcen. "He takes care of the paint, giving Sean (Lampley) more opportunities on the wings."

During the Kings' first five games without Menk, Lampley was forced to play from inside and out with inconsistent results.

More comfortable playing as a small forward, Lampley now works away from the shaded lane, and Menk is just too happy to take over.

FULL POWER: Erik Menk gets in-between Chester Tolomia and Marlou Aquino of Sta. Lucia Realty in a recent match. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Last chance for Kim in Samsung AGE stop

THE BRAND-NEW AYALA GREENFIELD ESTATES Golf and Leisure Club in Calamba, Laguna plays host to the Samsung Amateur Tour starting today with a big cast of 214 participants vying for the eight division titles.

It is the fifth and final leg of the nationwide elimination series and nobody is more pressured to win than reigning national champion Kim Chang-hoi.

Kim's bid to earn a return ticket to the grand finals has been stymied by national training pool standouts. The Korean teener's best finish in the three legs he had joined came at his home club, the Royal Northwoods where he placed fourth.

Though not a single member of the pool is around this time, Kim will still have some top local names to contend with in the 72-hole championship division. The locals are led by Anthony Victoria, Jong Laput and junior golfers Gino Bunyi and Terence Macatangay.

The Samsung Amateur Tour is also sponsored by Tokyo Tokyo, KZG, Microtel, Coppertone Sport, Srixon, Philippine Airlines as the official carrier, Sunbolt, Rudy Project, C-Lium Fiber and Sports Plus.

Centro . . .

From page A17

Family Badminton Center, 2-0. Pulido and Jorge Emi overpowered Julie Kagalingan and Jane Olorvida, 15-2, 15-5, in the ladies' doubles, while the men's tandem of Velez and Jaime Ramos prevailed over Jojo Cruz and Edward Santos, 15-5, 15-12.

A few hours later, Centro Atletico posted another 2-0 sweep over Quezon City Sports Club in the semifinals. Durana and Pulido subdued Noreen Go and Elaine Lao, 15-11, 15-1, while Velez and Vitas crushed Kerwin Tui and Bogs Simeon, 15-8, 15-3.

"It was so tiring," said the 42-year-old Banquiles, a former national badminton champion. "Our players are (corporate) professionals, but we practiced at least three times a week just for this tournament."

During the competition, Centro Atletico enjoyed strong support from club members who came to cheer—complete with drums—in the sidelines.

"This tournament has become so competitive, you have to be serious about it," said Abad Santos. "You can't do it any other way. You just have to go all out. Our club members also knew that we need their help.

"It's court pride."

Untitled Roque tops chess tilt

PHILIPPINE CHESS HAS DIScovered a new giant killer in 25-year-old Merben Roque, who recently outscored some of the country's leading players in the Chess Lift Asia 2005 Open Active Chess Championship.

The untitled Roque garnered 7.5 points in the nine-round Swiss System tilt, tying veteran National Master Darwin Laylo and Grandmaster Mark Paragua for first.

But the Rizal Technological University varsity player took home the plum prize of P60,000 due to a higher tiebreak point. He also picked up P3,500 for topping the Non-Masters category as well.

Laylo was declared second worth P40,000, while Paragua pocketed P30,000 for third.

The other top placers were NM John Paul Gomez (fourth), who won P20,000, and IM Petronio Roca (fifth), who took home P15,000.

National Woman Master Aices Salvador topped ladies play and won P2,500.

Other special category winners: Cecil Padua (Senior), Dr. Jenny Mayor (Top Executive), Revin Briam Vasallo (Junior), Christian Anthony Flores (Kiddie), Razel Lagman (Under 2000), Alfredo Armendi (Under 1800), and Christian Michael Reyes (Below 1600 Division).

CHESS LIFT ASIA 20
ACTIVE CHESS CHAMPIO

GRAND prize winner Merben Roque (fourth from left) with GM Mark Paragua (to his left) and the other top finishers.

Spring Oil nips PCCr five for third victory

SPRING COOKING OIL SQUANdered several double-digit leads early in the game but recovered in time to nip Mail&More/Burlington/PCCr, 58-55, for its third straight victory in the 2005 Picaa Open basketball tournament at the Philippine Budhacare gym in Quezon City.

The Cooking Oil Masters of national shooting champion Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and coach Efren "Yong" Garcia kept their composure under grinding pressure to pull out the thrilling win and share the lead with UCM-Lyceum, which ripped Wang's Ballclub, 77-67, in another game.

Earlier, Mediatrix trounced El Abarsoza, 103-81.

Lean but able medical . . .

From page A17

make sure the 1,000-plus athletes are physically and mentally tuned up for the Games.

Canlas also bared that they have finished the RP delegation's pre-SEAG examinations including doping tests particularly among athletes in weightlifting and bodybuilding. So far, there is no report of a national athlete failing the test.

Concerns like bird-flu and dengue, according to Canlas, are also being taken care of.

GMA should step in

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I HEARD THAT JOEY LINA IS IN SWITZERland talking to Fiba bigwig Patrick Baumann. I'm sure he went there to discuss the fate of basketball in the country, not to mention Joey's expected request for Fiba to lift our suspension so that we could have basketball in the SEA Games.

As I keep saying here, very few people are given the chance to play hero. This is Joey's chance of a lifetime.

Patrick Baumann would also endear himself forever to the Filipino people if he'd grant Joey's request, which could be construed anytime as the plea of the entire Filipino nation.

It is also my prayer that Baumann softens up on his previous line that Fiba would only reinstate Philippine basketball if Joey's BAP (Basketball Association of the Philippines) is recognized as the official basketball body by the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC).

There's so much hate spittle spilled already that it's about time we shape up. Sports is supposed to foster friendship, diplomacy and unity among peoples of the world. The Fiba, being the world's prime instrument for basketball oneness, should take the lead on this.

Now if Joey Lina comes home empty-handed, I strongly suggest that GMA should step in by inviting Joey for breakfast at the Palace.

In-between sips of coffee or tea, GMA should convince her former DILG head to come to terms with Peping Cojuangco, the POC president.

I don't think Joey Lina will have the heart to turn down a lady—the Chief Executive at that.

And to those putting up an I-don't-care attitude whether there is basketball or not in the SEA Games, take heed.

While I believe we can't win world basketball titles, not to mention the Olympic basketball gold, we can win the SEA Games basketball gold anytime. In fact, we've been winning it since 1977, if memory serves right.

The SEA Games basketball gold is the only one that we can realistically win. So why don't we go for it?

We can't win track and field events in the Olympics but we can in the SEA Games.

We can't win swimming, taekwondo or even boxing events in the Olympics but, certainly, we can in the SEA Games.

This is not the time for anti-basketball quarters to bash basketball.

This is the time to forge unity in all spheres of the sports spectrum because the SEA Games is the one event that can give us some pride as a nation.

Thus, a SEA Games without basketball is like an Asian Games without football, or like an Olympic Games without the marathon.

So, c'mon ES a.k.a. Ed Ermita, what are we waiting for?

Pick up that phone and call Joey Lina now as time is fast running out on us. The SEA Games begins Nov. 27.

One breakfast between GMA and Joey Lina—OK, include Peping Cojuangco—might yet prove to be the key.

* * *

A friend is a friend is a friend, and so my friend, Ayet Sinchongco, is with us again.

She said she has good news for Pump lovers—Pump as in Reebok's latest running foot gear.

Ayet said that if you enjoyed your Pump 2.0 wrapshear, October's flavor of the month in lightweight running shoes, you'll fall in love more with this month's new version of the Pump, which has long institutionalized the smooth-heel impact.

NBA star Allen Iverson has just released his Answer IX, an all-new Pump technology, in time for the opening of the new NBA season.

"Iverson fans will surely love his newest invention," said Ayet, the love of my fellow columnist, Dick Sinchongco.

Oh, well, Iverson has just led his team to a thrilling 111-109 victory over Indiana on Sunday. Iverson had 29 points and 12 assists for Philadelphia in a smashing coaching debut for Maurice Cheeks with the 76ers.

If you have questions on Iverson's Pump-powered Answer IX, call Ayet at 0917-5305759.

That said, I'm now ready to drink San Miguel beer again with Dick.

Bottoms up, podner!

* * *

FASTBREAK: I won't be in town when a dear friend of mine will turn a new leaf on Nov. 13. But Arben Santos, a bosom buddy of Grappa's owner E.B. Bravo and Ateneo pillar Ricky Palou, will understand—as always. Advanced birthday greetings, Pareng Arben, and here's wishing for more to come.

* * *

E-mail: menju@pldtdsl.net

McGrady's T-MAC 5 off the launch pad

AFTER LAUNCHING THE BEST-selling T-MAC in 2000, Adidas is introducing its fifth edition of NBA superstar Tracy McGrady's signature shoe series, the T-MAC 5.

The T-MAC 5 continues to push the boundaries of conventional basketball footwear by bringing together proven revolutionary design elements and Adidas' technology and performance components.

From the technology and performance side, the shoe features lightweight synthetic leather with geoFIT pods that are anatomically placed and a molded strap. Within the midsole, there is internal EVA with a TPU heel chassis, customized molded PU sockliner with adiPRENE and adiPRENE_ inserts.

These components are put into the T-MAC 5 to provide the player with the highest performing basketball shoe on the market.

The T-MAC 5 has real wood in it.

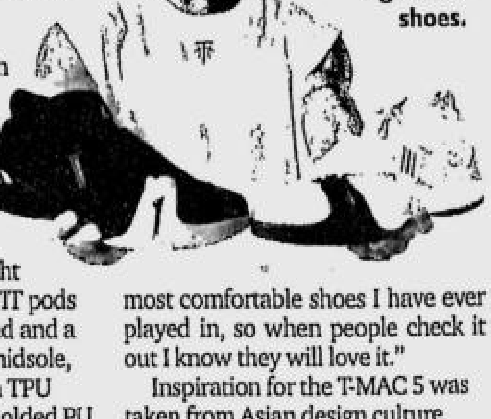
"When we started designing the shoe, I really wanted something that represents me and my passion for the game, so we decided to do something that had never been done before in a basketball shoe, and that was to put a piece of the court into it," said McGrady.

"It is also one of the lightest and most comfortable shoes I have ever played in, so when people check it out I know they will love it."

Inspiration for the T-MAC 5 was taken from Asian design culture and the use of very soft and aggressive arches throughout.

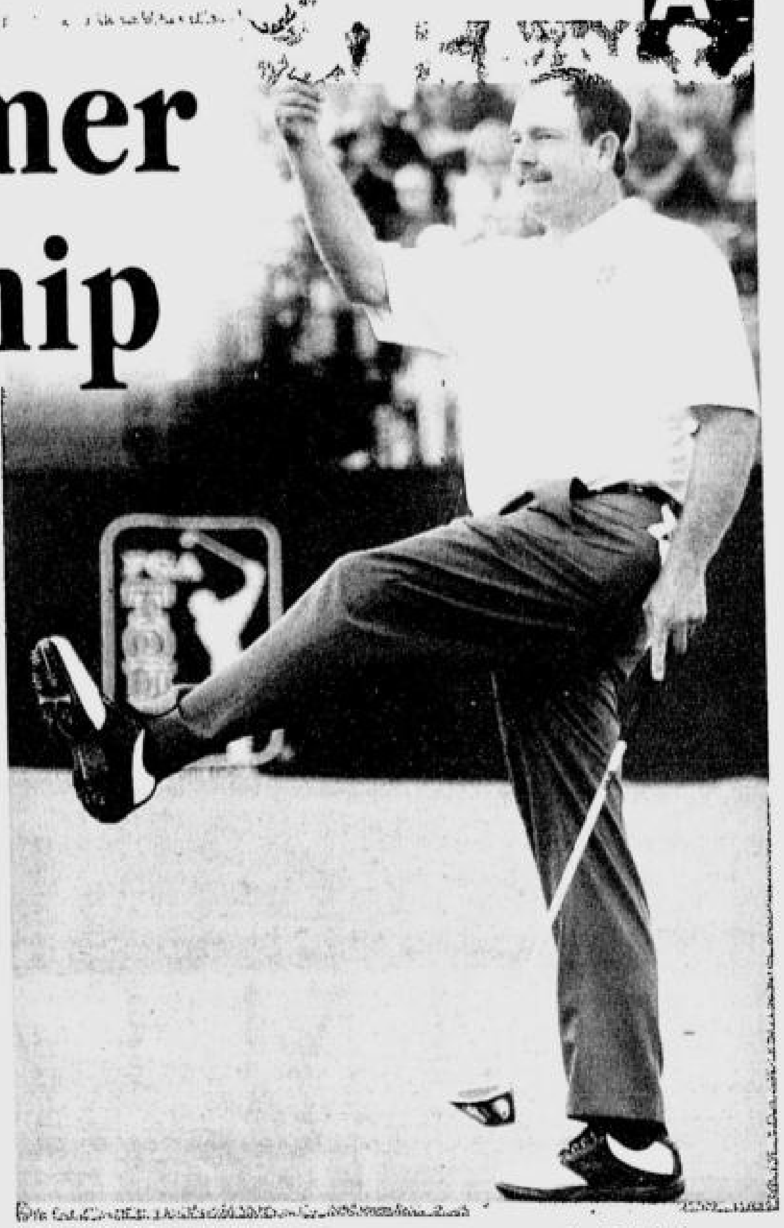
The T-MAC 5 is initially featured in two colors: white/black/red (released Nov. 2), and black/red (to be released on Dec. 13), with an additional color hitting the market in February 2006.

For more than 50 years, Adidas has been providing innovative products for the world's best athletes, from NBA legends such as Jerry West, Oscar Robertson and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar to today's superstars such as Tim Duncan, Kevin Garnett and McGrady.



TRACY McGrady shows off his signature shoes.

Bryant unlikely Tiger tamer at PGA Tour Championship



BRYANT celebrates after sinking his final putt on the 18th hole. AP

ATLANTA, GEORGIA—BART BRYANT FENDed off a challenge from world number one Tiger Woods on Sunday to post a six-shot win at the $6.5 million PGA Tour Championship that surprised even himself.

"I didn't think I could make it into the Tour Championship, and I certainly didn't think I could win," Bryant said. "I feared choking my guts out all week long."

Starting the final round with a three-shot lead, Bryant birdied three of the first six holes to double his advantage and easily survived a mid-round challenge from Woods to clinch his third victory in the past 14 months.

This one was worth $1.17 million and bumped him to ninth on the money list. Not bad for a 42-year-old who never had previously won on the PGA Tour.

"I'm thrilled beyond description," said Bryant, whose closing 67 gave him a tournament record of 17-under-par 263.

A medium-length, straight hitter, Bryant led the field in both fairways hit and greens in regulation. His game was ideally suited to a bone-dry East Lake course with plenty of roll, and the mental resilience he displayed to cope with the pressure of leading after every round was perhaps even more impressive.

"Last night in bed, I really pictured myself getting off to a really hot start, and that's what happened," he said.

Bryant needed the cushion, because bogeys at the fifth and sixth holes gave his rivals a glimmer of hope.

The dropped shot at the par-three sixth could have been worse, because he found the water short of the green and did well to limit the damage to one stroke by sinking an eight-footer.

WOODS: He was very consistent.

"I was very shocked to see it come back into the water," he said. "I thought if I just got my club on the ball, I was going to get over the water. I hit it just a touch heavy. That was an anxious moment. I started having things going on in my mind, like, 'How many can we chunk in the water from this ball drop?'"

Retief Goosen, who started the day in second place, was off his game, leaving it to Woods to provide the only real threat.

But even Woods was too far back to mount much of a challenge.

He picked up three birdies in four holes midway through the round, but Bryant matched him and had the luxury of cruising to victory by playing the final six holes in one-over.

"Every week, I feel I belong more and more where I am," he said. "I certainly don't put myself up there in the same category as Tiger, but I have found that if I'm on top of my game, under the right conditions, I definitely can compete."

Woods, who shot 69, paid tribute to the winner.

"He did what he had to do," Woods said. "He was very consistent all week. He just kept hitting fairways and greens and making a couple of putts and he had a little spurt on the back nine that basically iced it."

Bryant will celebrate his career season by undergoing arthroscopic surgery on his left knee Tuesday. Next year, he will be exempt for all four majors for the first time and is looking forward to The Masters, which he has never played.

Down the leaderboard, consistent Scott Verplank (69) finished third at 271, while Goosen (74) faded to a tie for fourth with Davis Love (69) and Vijay Singh (67), another two shots back. *AFP*

SPORTSWATCH

Nolte tops chessfest

NATIONAL MASTER ROLANDO NOLTE SETTLED FOR a draw against GM Mark Paragua in the seventh and final round to rule via tie-break the Open section of the 13th annual Codiñera Memorial Chess Championships held over the weekend at the J&F Divino Bldg. at 967 Aurora Blvd. in Proj. 2 & 3, Quezon City. Nolte, actually wound up with a final tally of six points with five wins and two draws to tie for 1st-2nd places with FM Oliver Dimakiling, who upended IM Darwin Laylo. However, capped the title and the championship trophy due to a higher tie-break. Nolte and Dimakiling shared the pooled P10,500 prize. Top seed Paragua finished with 5.5 points to join IM Richard Bitoon and Dino Ballecer for 3rd-5th spots. Bitoon beat IM Ronald Bancod while Ballecer downed NM Rustum Tolentino in the event supported by Quezon City 4th district councilor Bayani Hipol, Milo and Winter House. FM Jesse Sales and Arnel Niño Aton occupied the 6th-7th spots with 5.0 points each. Bunched at 4.5 points each for 8th-15th places were Laylo, Bancod, Tolentino, NM Oliver Barbosa, NM Adrian Pacis, NM Randy Segarra, non-masters Noel dela Cruz; Jony Habla and Stephen Manzanero. Category winners were: Best kiddies—Franz Robert Grafil; top junior and 2050 below—Ballecer; top ladies—WNM Aices Salvador; top unrated—Robert Buela and top 1850 below—Manzanero.

NCA 7-stag derby

QUALITY FIGHTS ARE LINED UP TONIGHT WHEN the National Cockers Association (NCA) 7-stag derby resumes at the fully air-conditioned Makati Coliseum. The two-day event (Nov. 8 and 10) is the sixth of seven NCA derbies. Lito Orillaza's WTJ PCAP Makati Coliseum topped the fifth leg last Oct. 25 and 27. Derby hosts tonight are Representatives Ronnie Puno and Butch Pichay and tabloid executive Rey Briones. The NCA Stagfighter of the Year winner will be known after the Grand Championship 8-stag derby on Nov. 14 and 16. Stags with Balbina and "Bakbakan" wingbands will be accepted. The 4-stag elimination round is set on Nov. 14 while the 4-stag finals is set on Nov. 16. Call 896-3545 and 895-6475.

LGBA 3rd leg today

THE THIRD LEG OF THE LUZON GAMECOCK BREEDers Association (LGBA) 7-stag derby series unfolds at 3 p.m. today at the Araneta Coliseum with 75 encounters on tap. For the first time, LGBA will be giving awards to the top 10 finishers, said LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz. The LGBA Gamecock Breeder of the Year will be known Thursday. The pacesetters are Jun Santos of Rizal, 11.5 points; Sonny Lagon of Laguna, 11; Jun Guia and Gene Garcia, 10.5; Jaime Arandia, 10. Several LGBA members are fielding new entries on Thursday in connection with the qualifying round of the NFGB Bakbakan 9-stag derby. This is simultaneous with the LGBA 7-stag derby finals. Contact Taz Lunasc at 926-7808, 924-5072 and 0920-5851940.

Big Event at SJC set

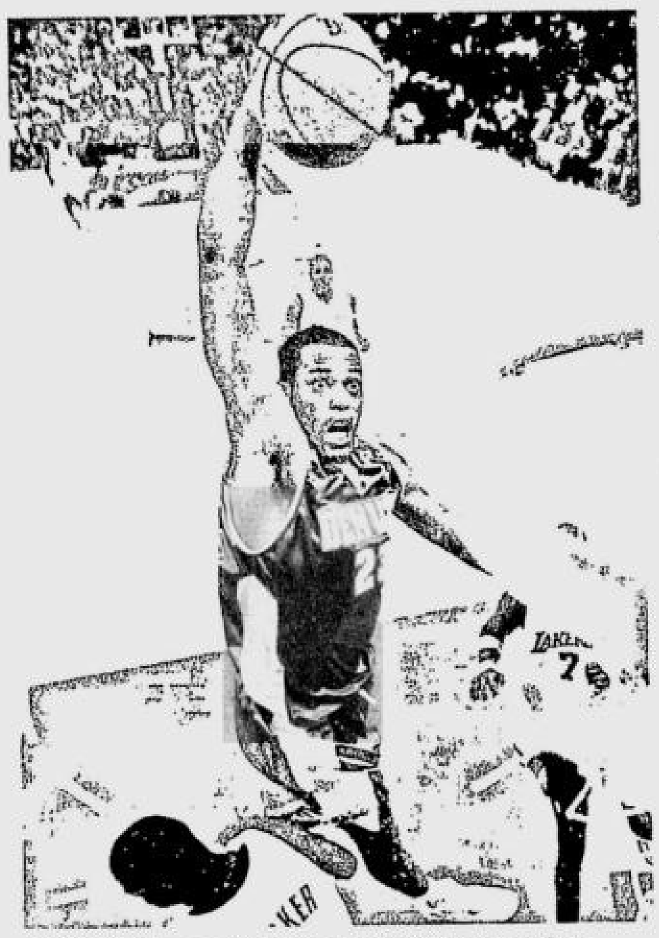
ANOTHER EDITION OF THE CROWD-DRAWING BIG Event 5-stag derby is scheduled at the air- conditioned San Juan Coliseum tomorrow with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as exclusive sponsor. Members of the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) will collide with participants from Negros Occidental, Davao, Cebu, Masbate, Pampanga, Pangasinan and Tarlac. Actual weigh-in will be staged on derby day, from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. The "bola" system will be adopted in the matching of entries. For details, call 725-5665, 725-5369 and 727-7086 (look for Ariel). The derby will start at 2 p.m. tomorrow, featuring more than 80 fights. Meanwhile, Pol Estrellado of Laguna bagged the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) Stagfighter of the Year award Friday night at Pasay City Cockpit during the 5-stag championship derby. Estrellado's PE Sta. Cruz entry tallied 20 points in six GCAP derbies.

RACING

AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Patutina 2. Ocean Dignity 3. Starlet 4. Like Kevin 5. JJ's Friend
Race 2—1. Color of the Wind 2. Feng Shui 3. Ilocos Princess 4. Ravensworth
Race 3—1. St. Germain 2. Morning Nell 3. Sham Sham 4. Sound of the Wind 5. Vhinggot
Race 4—1. Hakuna Matata 2. Guad/Maria Makiling 3. Sweet Connections 4. Angie Gray
Race 5—1. Smile of the Wind 2. Demolition Jack 3. Nitty Gritty 4. Perky Perp 5. Western Dancer
Race 6—1. Dulce My Love 2. Strong Jays 3. Presidentiable 4. Rose and Toy
Race 7—1. El Love Señora 2. Once and For All 3. Smiling Jaeda 4. Mika's Pride
Race 8—1. Cool Turner 2. Family Day 3. Ginja 4. Rivaldo 5. Red Phoenix 6. Magic Bullet

Warriors trip Knicks; Lakers whip Nuggets



DENVER Nuggets' Marcus Camby (23) goes up for a dunk past Los Angeles Lakers' Smush Parker. REUTERS

NEW YORK—JASON RICHARDson scored 24 points and Troy Murphy had 11 points and 10 rebounds to help the Golden State Warriors edge the New York Knicks 83-81 at Madison Square Garden on Sunday.

Baron Davis returned after missing a game with a strained hamstring and added 16 points and nine rebounds for the Warriors (2-1), who kept the Knicks winless so far this season.

New York coach Larry Brown slipped to 0-3 after joining the Knicks from the Detroit Pistons in the off-season after New York trailed by seven points at the half and were unable to hold on the one-point lead they grabbed in the final six minutes.

Adonal Foyle pulled down 11 rebounds for the Warriors, who won for the first time on the road this season despite being out-rebounded 51-40 and shooting just 40 percent from the field and 47 percent from the foul line.

Stephon Marbury led New York with 15 points and six assists, with Brown using three rookies on the floor at various times in an attempt to kick-start his club's offense.

One of the rookies, Channing Frye, had 12 points for the Knicks, who are coming off a disappointing 33-49 season in 2004-05.

Eddy Curry and Trevor Ariza both added 11 points for New York, but Curry saw limited playing time after getting into early foul trouble.

Quentin Richardson was held scoreless until the final minute when he scored a pair of baskets to make the final score closer, although the Knicks never really threatened to take the lead.

The Knicks now go on the road for a six-game road trip still looking for their first win of the season.

In Phoenix, Shareef Abdur-Rahim hit two free throws in the final 13.3 seconds as the Sacramento Kings beat the Suns 118-117.

Peja Stojakovic scored 33 points and Abdur-Rahim scored 23 points and had 12 rebounds and seven assists for the Kings.

Leandro Barbosa scored 23 points and Steve Nash scored 18 points and had 13 assists for the Suns.

In Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant had 37 points as the Lakers beat the Denver Nuggets 112-92.

Chris Mihm added 20 points and 13 rebounds for Los Angeles, as the Lakers improved to 2-1 under Phil Jackson. Lamar Odom also had 20 points.

Carmelo Anthony had 21 points for the Nuggets (1-3), while Andre Miller added 20. *Reuters*

Pinoy bets show wares in ITF Circuit today

WHETHER THE PHILIPPINE WOMEN'S tennis team has the potential to win medals in the coming Southeast Asian Games will be known when its four members see action starting today in the $10,000 Holcim ITF Women's Circuit 1 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Czarina Mae Arevalo and Denise Dy test their partnership against Taiwanese Chen Yi and Kao Shao-Yuan in the ladies' doubles opener at 1 p.m.

Fil-German Anja Vanessa Peter also gets going with Israeli qualifier Erafat Zlotikamin as her doubles partner against Hong Kong's Chan Wing-Yau and Zhang Ling.

Arevalo, Dy and Peter are also competing in the singles along with Fil-Am Riza Angela Zalameda, who is the top ranked RP player in the field as the sixth seed.

Filipino qualifiers Melissa Orteza and Michelle Pang collide at 10:30 a.m. to kick off singles play. Trudy Gine Amoranto, another RP qualifier, also gets going against Korean Lim Sae-mi at 11:30 a.m.

Other matches pit No. 7 Korean Kim Hae-sung against American Julianna Gates, Taiwanese Kao Shao-Yuan against compatriot Chen Lu-Ling and Hong Kong's Zhang Ling against American Zena Williams.

The rest of the doubles schedule pit Eva Olivarez-Ilas and Melissa Rose Orteza against Koreans Kim Jung-Eun and Kim Yeon-ju, Noelle Zoleta and American Marie Zalameda against Briton Rebecca Fong and Thai Pichittra Thongdach, and Briton Rachel Hall and Japanese Hirona Okazaki against British pair Natasha Khan and Georgie Stoop.

World's No. 695 and tournament top seed Korean Lyoo Suh Hee-sun, second seed Korean Lee Jin-a (741), third seed Briton Rebecca Fong (743), fourth seed Pichittra Thongdach (759), fifth seed Taiwanese Chen Yi (826), Riza Zalameda and No. 8 Briton Natasha Khan (908) are scheduled to play tomorrow.

NYC MARATHON

Tergat sprints to victory

TERGAT crosses the finish line as Ramaala follows. AP

NEW YORK—WORLD RECORD HOLDer Paul Tergat of Kenya sprinted to victory ahead of defending champion Hendrick Ramaala of South Africa in the New York men's marathon here on Sunday.

The 36-year-old Tergat crossed the line in 2hr 9min 30sec, just ahead of Ramaala who clocked 2:09:31, with Meb Keflezighi of the United States third in 2:09:56.

It was the closet finish in the history of the New York City Marathon.

The top two finishers raced virtually shoulder-to-shoulder and swapped the lead several times in the final three miles and then turned on a breathtaking finish with just a couple of steps separating them after 26.2 miles.

"The last thing I was expecting was a sprint at the finish. In the last 200 meters I had to give all I had. It was very hard," Tergat said.

He described the closing 400 meters as "really, really, painful" and added that Ramaala took the lead briefly in the final 20 meters, adding more excitement and tension at the line.

It was the first participation in New York for Tergat who holds the world record of 2:04:55 since the 2003 Berlin marathon.

The 36-year-old Kenyan, acknowledged as one of the best long distance runners of all time, added the title to his 1996 and 2000 Olympic gold medals. *AFP*

Baron Travel golf up

THE THIRD EDITION of the Baron travel-royal Caribbean Golf Classic will be held at the Manila Southwoods Golf & Country Club on Nov. 17.

The "by invitation only" tournament is organized by Baron Travel for its patrons and top corporate clients.

Baron Travel is putting at stake four Royal Caribbean Cruise packages inclusive of airfares as hole-in-one prizes in all four par three holes. More prizes will be at stake during the Grand raffle including cruise packages, airfare tickets, hotel and resort accommodations.

Sponsors include PAL, Korean Air, Continental Airlines, Asian Spirit, South East Asian Airlines, El Nido Resort, CJH Development Corp., PMC Finance Corp. and AssistCard International.

RP football caravan set for Games

THE PHILIPPINE FOOTBALL FEDeration (PFF) has givèn the go signal for a motorcade of football enthusiasts and fans to support the men's and women's national teams in their SEA Games opening matches in Bacolod and Marikina.

Football president Johnny Romualdez welcomed the idea of a football caravan, conceptualized by football promoter and publicist Ed Formoso, as it is compatible with the PFF's effort to drum up people support for both national teams as well as promote the sport in the SEA Games.

Formoso said that he was in touch with all the provincial football associations and that each one was enthusiastic to join the caravan.

Formoso added that in Bacolod City, the Negros Occidental Football Association (Nofa) would be organizing its caravan in time for the first match of the men's team on Nov. 20. Nofa general secretary Mari Mendezona and Deputy GenSec Warren Concepcion are mapping out the motorcade's route.

In Metro Manila, NCR-FA president Poch Borromeo, also president of GNC, has pledged his support and volunteered to decorate three company vans to roll with the caravan on the way to Marikina.

Red Ribbon president Danny Moran has committed the participation of his bakeshop while Cathy Rivilla, president of the Muntinlupa-Parañaque-Las Piñas Football Association, has guaranteed MPL's presence.

Tony Chua, team manager of Red Bull and PFF VP in-charge of the national teams for the SEAG, said that a Red Bull van would join the caravan in support of both teams.

No televised awards night for Enpress

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE ENTERTAINMENT PRESS SOCIETY (Enpress) will not air its Golden Screen for Entertainment TV Awards on any network this year.

Enpress overall chair Jun Nardo told INQUIRER Entertainment this was to avoid talk that the group is "biased." Nardo stressed that the mere choice of a station could spark controversy.

Last year, Enpress was criticized for giving 19 of 28 awards to GMA 7, which televised the proceedings. Rival ABS-CBN won only 10 awards, including Best Musical/Variety Program, which it shared with GMA 7.

Besides, Nardo admitted, Enpress failed to generate enough advertising this year. "[Sponsors] were interested in placing ads if the show were to be aired on GMA 7 or ABS-CBN," Nardo said. "QTV was willing to [air it], but it's still identified with GMA 7."

Best of all, he added, "We're weary of the traditional awards show. This year, we'll have a party!"

The second Golden Screen for Entertainment TV will be held on Nov. 30, 9:30 p.m., at Zirkoh Comedy Bar in Quezon City.

"We will announce the winners in advance so they can personally receive their trophies," said Ruel Mendoza, chair of the awards executive committee. "But all nominees are invited."

Special awards will be given to Coney Reyes, Tina Monzon-Palma and Bibeth Orteza for "making a mark in drama, news broadcasting and comedy on TV"; and to "Eat Bulaga," the longest-running TV show.

The nominees

Oustanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series: Pilita Corrales, Rufa Mae Quinto and Tessie Tomas. **Oustanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series:** Joey Marquez, Benjie Paras, Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., Raymart Santiago and Ronaldo Valdez.

Lead Actress in a Drama Series: Bea Alonzo, Claudine Barretto, Sunshine Dizon, Karylle, Angel Locsin and Regine Velasquez. **Lead Actor in a Drama Series:** John Lloyd Cruz, Richard Gomez, Richard Gutierrez, Ariel Rivera and Dennis Trillo.

Lead Actress in a Drama Special: Rochelle Pangilinan, Cherry Pie Picache, Camille Prats, Nadine Samonte, Lorna Tolentino and Eula Valdez. **Lead Actor in a Drama Special:** John Lloyd Cruz, Christopher de Leon, Albert Martinez, Michael de Mesa and Romnick Sarmenta.

Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series: K Brosas, Francine Prieto, Tiya Pusit, Sherilyn Reyes and Gloria Romero. **Performance in a Comedy Gag Show:** Antonio Aquitania, Keempee de Leon, Bearwin Meily, Mike "Pekto" Nacua and Teri Onor. **Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series:** Ogie Alcasid, Joey de Leon, Rufa Mae Quinto, Maverick Realova, Michael V. and Ariel Villasanta.

Supporting Actress in a Drama Series: Amy Austria, Hilda Koronel, Alessandra de Rossi, Jennifer Sevilla and Dawn Zulueta. **Supporting Actor in a Drama Series:** Tirso Cruz III, Jay Manalo, Pen Medina, Dennis Trillo and Alfred Vargas.

Supporting Actress in a Drama Special: Kaye Abad, Glaiza de Castro, Rio Locsin, Camille Prats and Daria Ramirez. **Supporting Actor in a Drama Special:** Ricky Davao, Eddie Garcia, Emilio Garcia, Lester Llansang and Spencer Reyes.

Director for a Comedy Series/Comedy Gag Show: Boyong Baytion, Danni Caparas, Cesar Cosme, Bert de Leon and Al Quinn. **Director for a Drama Series:** Ruel Bayani, Eric Quizon and Dominic Zapata, Mark Reyes and Gil Tejada, Mark Reyes and Phil Noble, Dominic Zapata and Lorenzo Reyes.

Male Host in a Musical or Variety Program: Ogie Alcasid, Janno Gibbs, Joey de Leon, German Moreno, Martin Nievera and Vic Sotto. **Female Host in a Musical or Variety Program:** Toni Rose Gayda, Pia Guanio, Jaya, Zsa Zsa Padilla and Regine Velasquez.

Comedy Series: "Bahay Mo Ba 'To?" "Daddy Di Do Du," "Idol Ko Si Kap," "Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita" and "OK Fine, 'Tong Gusto Ko." **Comedy Gag Show:** "Bubble Gang," "Nuts Entertainment," "Quizon Avenue," "The Misadventures Of Maverick & Ariel" and "Wow! Maling-Mali!"

Drama Series: "Encantadia," "Forever In My Heart," "Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin," "Mulawin," and "'Sang Sulok Ng Langit." **Drama Special:** "Maalaala Mo Kaya: Bestida," "Magpakailanman: Sa Kanya Ay Kumakatok, Ang Pinto Ay Bubuksan" and "Maynila: Big Brother, Little Sister."

Musical or Variety Program: "A.S.A.P. '05," "Chowtime Na," "Master Showman Presents Walang Tulugan" and "S.O.P." **Reality/Competition Program:** "Extra Chal-

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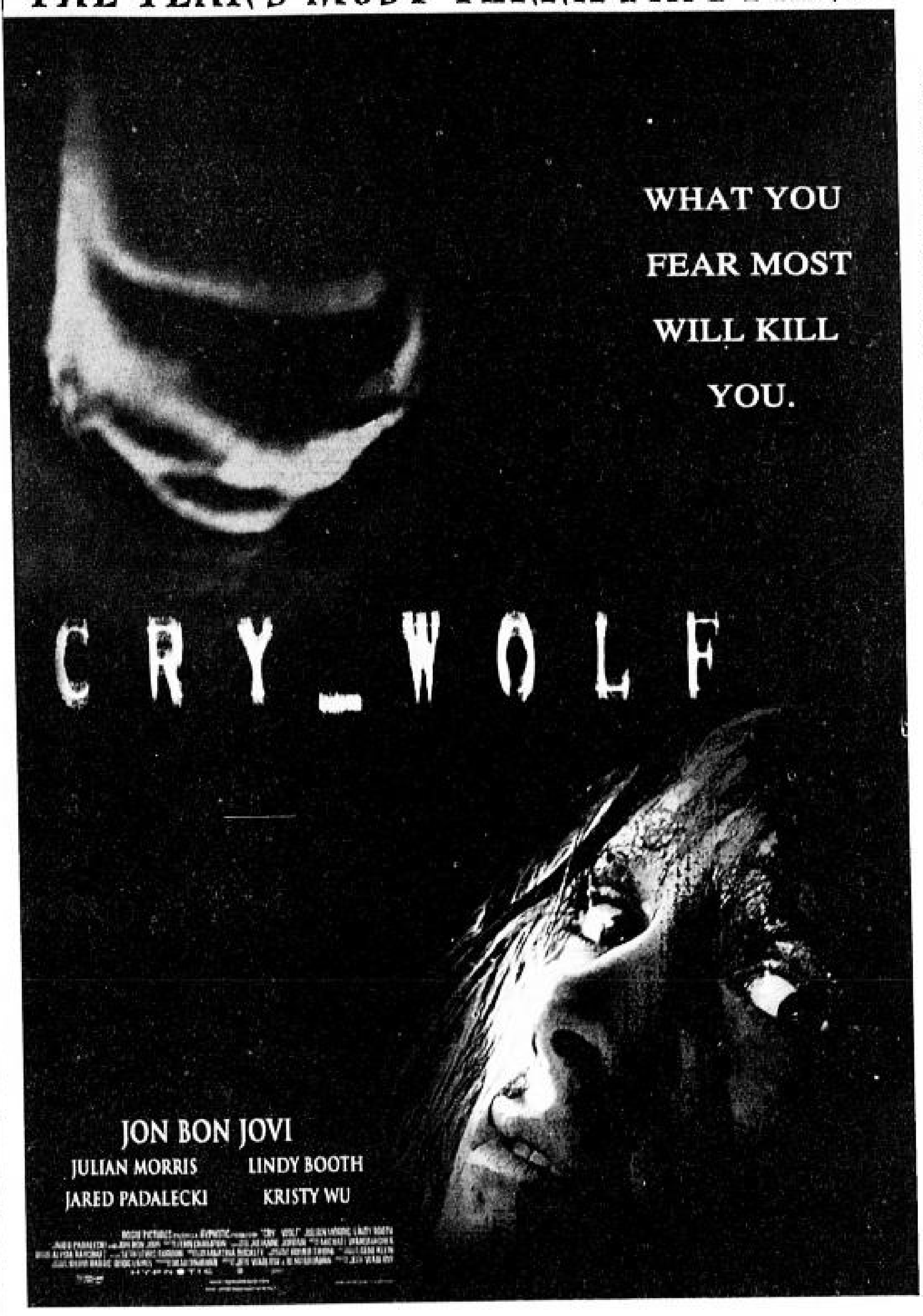

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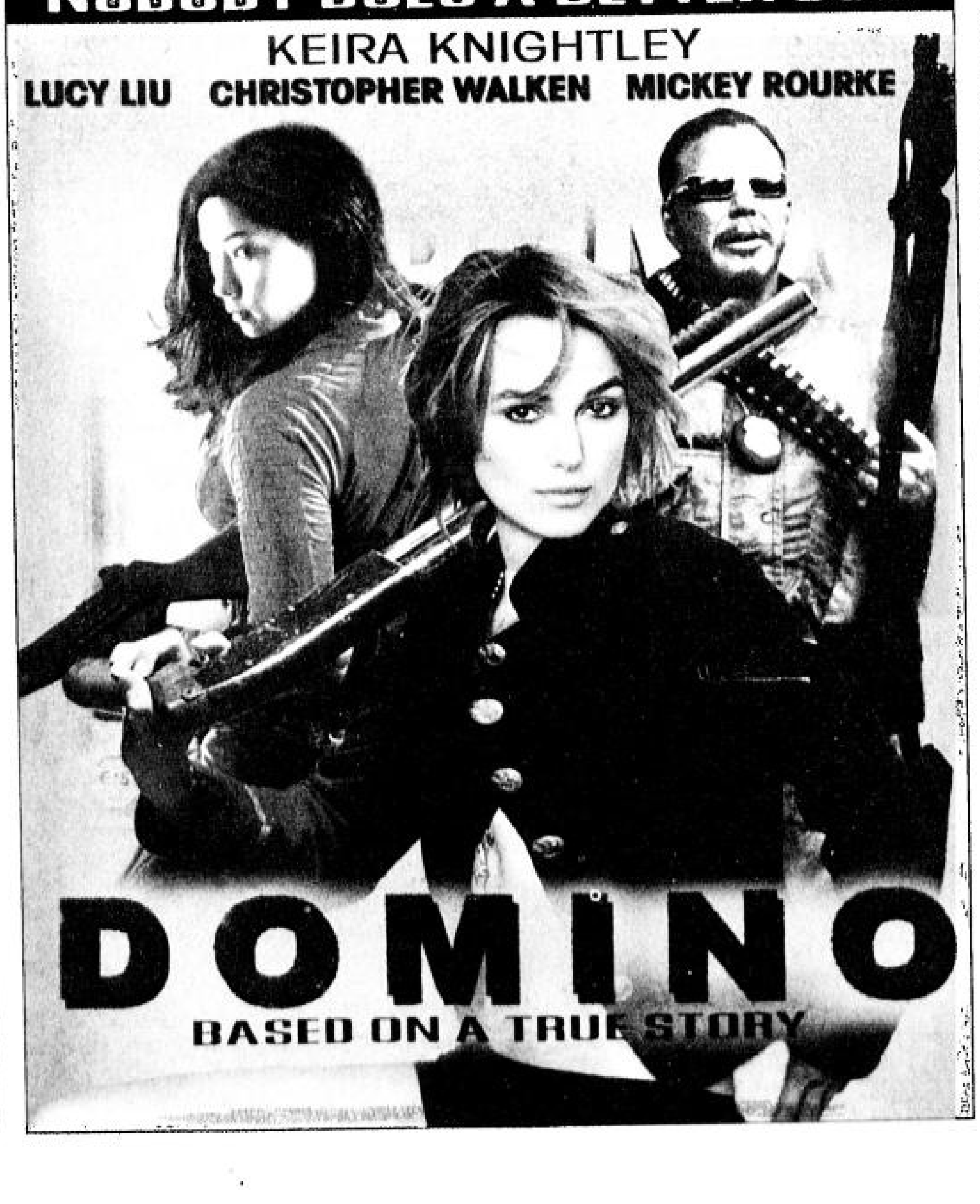


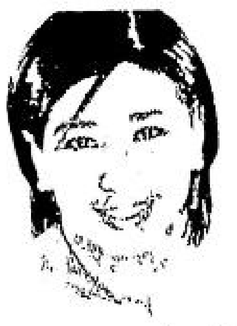
FEEDBACK

Someone spoiled it

EVERY YEAR I FOLLOW the Oscar Foreign Film race quite closely. In late September, about 40 countries had made announcements about their selections for the 2006 Oscars. I was curious as to why the Philippines—usually one of the first countries to make an announcement—hadn't done so.

I emailed the Film Academy of the Philippines to ask if they were sending a movie this year, and I never received a response. I'm sure somebody was just irresponsible and didn't feel like doing all the paperwork.

It really is a shame, especially since more Southeast Asian countries (four) than any year previously turned in entries. Every East Asian country that was invited submitted one, except for the Philippines. Cesar Montano's "Call of the River" ("Panaghoy sa Suba") might have been a strong contender. *—Anthony Tranchiina, Bangkok (via e-mail)*



Feeling for Alma

I JUST read the nightmare that Ms. Alma Moreno and company experienced in Japan. I sympathize with them and I [understand] that they want to seek retribution.

What Mr. Tarroza did was an illustration of crab mentality. Granted that Alma's group was going to perform in certain clubs somewhere in this planet. So what?

Ever wonder why the Chinese easily make it anywhere they go? This is because they fully support one another.

What about Pinoys? Truth hurts, and it saddens me. *—Esperanza Panchang Limcauco, LaVerne, California (via e-mail)*

Not this one

HAY naku! Had I been at the studio when Alma Moreno was interviewed on "The Buzz" and "S-Files," I would have slapped her silly and shouted, "*Tama na!*" *Napaka*-OA! *—Louie Duran, Portland, Oregon (via e-mail)*

Fun jam: FrancisM & Maxene

From page A24

lo, has a tattoo.

How far do you think Maxene would go in show biz?

She did her first commercial at 4. Tried and tested *na 'yan*—show biz royalty. She got her talent not just from me, but from her grandparents Pancho and Tita Magalona.

Maxene

Would you like a tattoo, like your parents have?

Our parents don't exactly encourage us to have tattoos. But it's okay with them. Tattoos look nice on mom and dad ... though they're in their 40s. Maybe I'll get one like mom's, on the wrist.

What do you think of rap music?

It's cool. I'm very proud that it was my dad who pioneered rap music in the Philippines. His songs are part of Philippine history. He writes great, inspiring lyrics.

Can you sing "Mga Kababayan Ko" and "Kaleidoscope World?"

Of course. I sing "Kaleidoscope World" with my dad when we do shows together.

What does your dad sing at home?

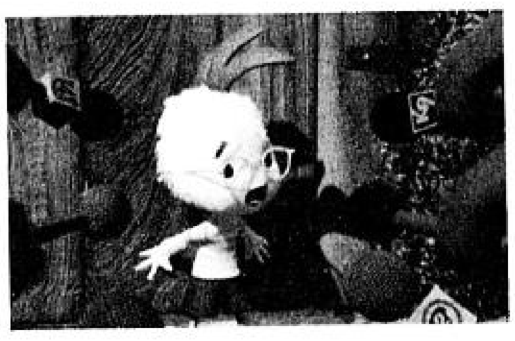
Frank Sinatra tunes. I guess my *lolo* influenced him. He also listens to The Beatles and Beach Boys.

Is he a fun dad?

He's very *masayahin*. He's very hip. But he knows when to be serious and strict.

'Rigodon' premiere

Chin-chin Gutierrez and Joel Torre topbill "Rigodon," about three Filipino immigrants in post-9/11 New York, directed by Sari Lluch Dalena and Keith Sicat, with Hollywood megman Spike Lee among the advisers. It premiered at Cinemanila on Saturday. A second preem is set at the UP Film Institute on Nov. 14, 5 and 7 p.m.



'Chicken Little' rules roost in US, Canada

LOS ANGELES—THE SKY IS STILL falling in Hollywood, even though Chicken Little and the Marines have landed.

The box office tumbled again despite solid weekends for the animated "Chicken Little," which debuted with $40.1 million, and the Desert Storm drama "Jarhead," which opened with $28.8 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The films paced Hollywood to a healthy weekend, with the top 12 movies grossing $121.2 million. Yet that was down 10 percent from the same weekend in 2004.

Audiences seem to be getting into the holiday moviegoing spirit; "Chicken Little" and "Jarhead" each came in as much as $10 million ahead of expectations.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at US and Canadian theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc., official box office tracker:

1) "Chicken Little," $40.1M; 2) "Jarhead," $28.8M; 3) "Saw II," $17.2M; 4) "The Legend of Zorro," $10M; 5) "Prime," $5.3M; 6) "Dreamer: Inspired by a True Story," $4.8M; 7) "Good Night, and Good Luck," $3.1M; 8) "The Weather Man," $2.9M; 9) "Shopgirl," $2.5M; 10) "Flightplan," $2.3M. *AP*

Echo says . . .

From page A24

THE RECENT KBP Golden Dove Awards was again dominated by television giant ABS-CBN. Seems it's turning into an annual no-contest affair. Televiewers now doubt the credence of the awards since no clear competition can be seen. Truly, the best and the brightest names in the industry do not solely come from the Kapamilya channel with its rival network consistently having the greater number of viewers nowadays.

It can be recalled that GMA 7, today's leading television network, ratings and profit-wise, left the KBP two years ago. How then could an award-giving body in the broadcasting industry like the KBP Golden Dove Awards still claim prestige and excellence when, in fact, the leading player is no longer a part of it? As such, how could the KBP claim that they honor the best and the brightest when it could only recognize the shows and stars of the second best?

In contrast, just a day before the GDA, the Catholic Mass Media Awards recognized the country's top television programs and the result was quite the opposite. Now, that's more like the network war that we are all used to and not the lopsided award-giving affair that the KBP subjected viewers to.

(E-Mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com)

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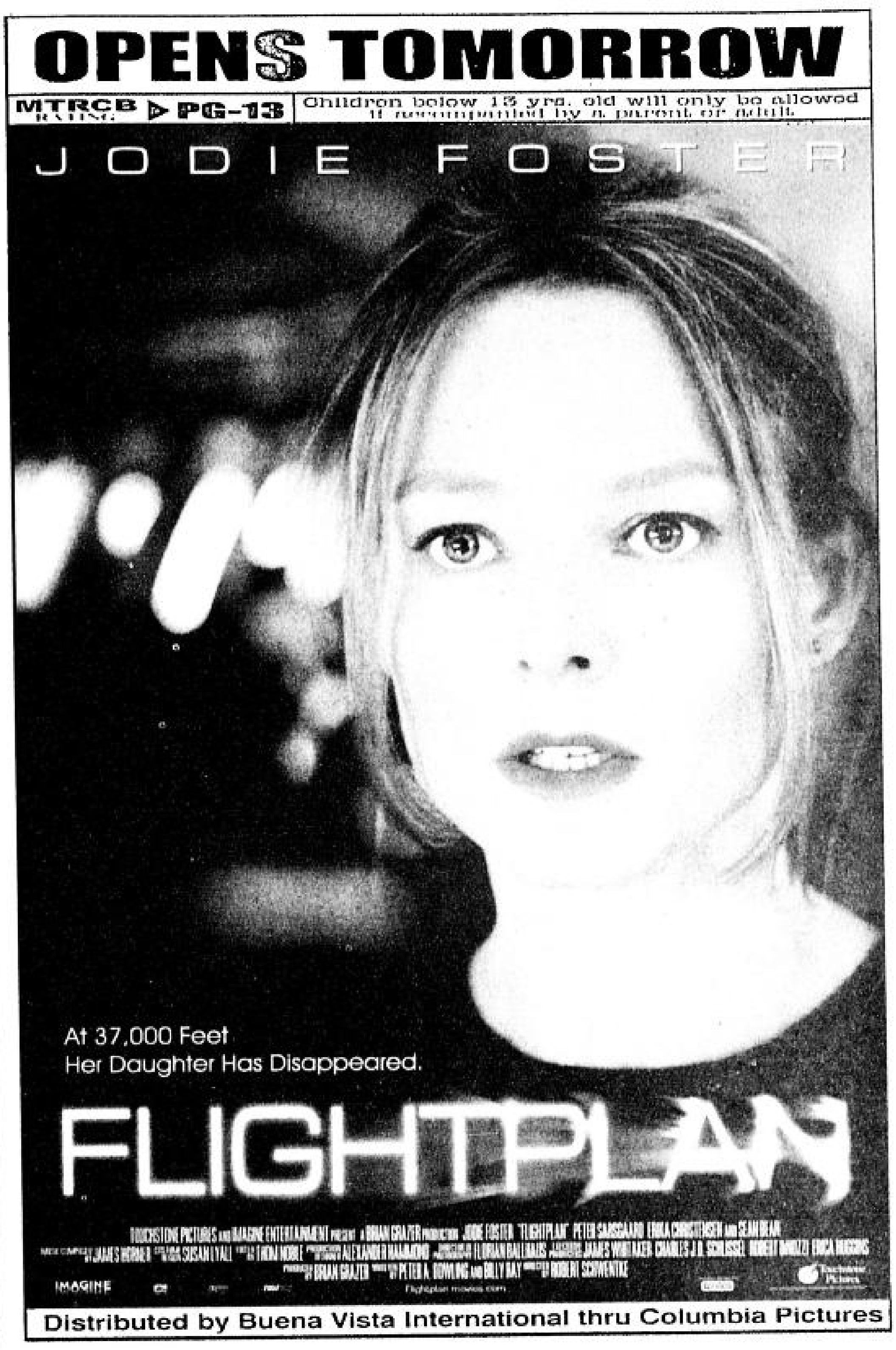
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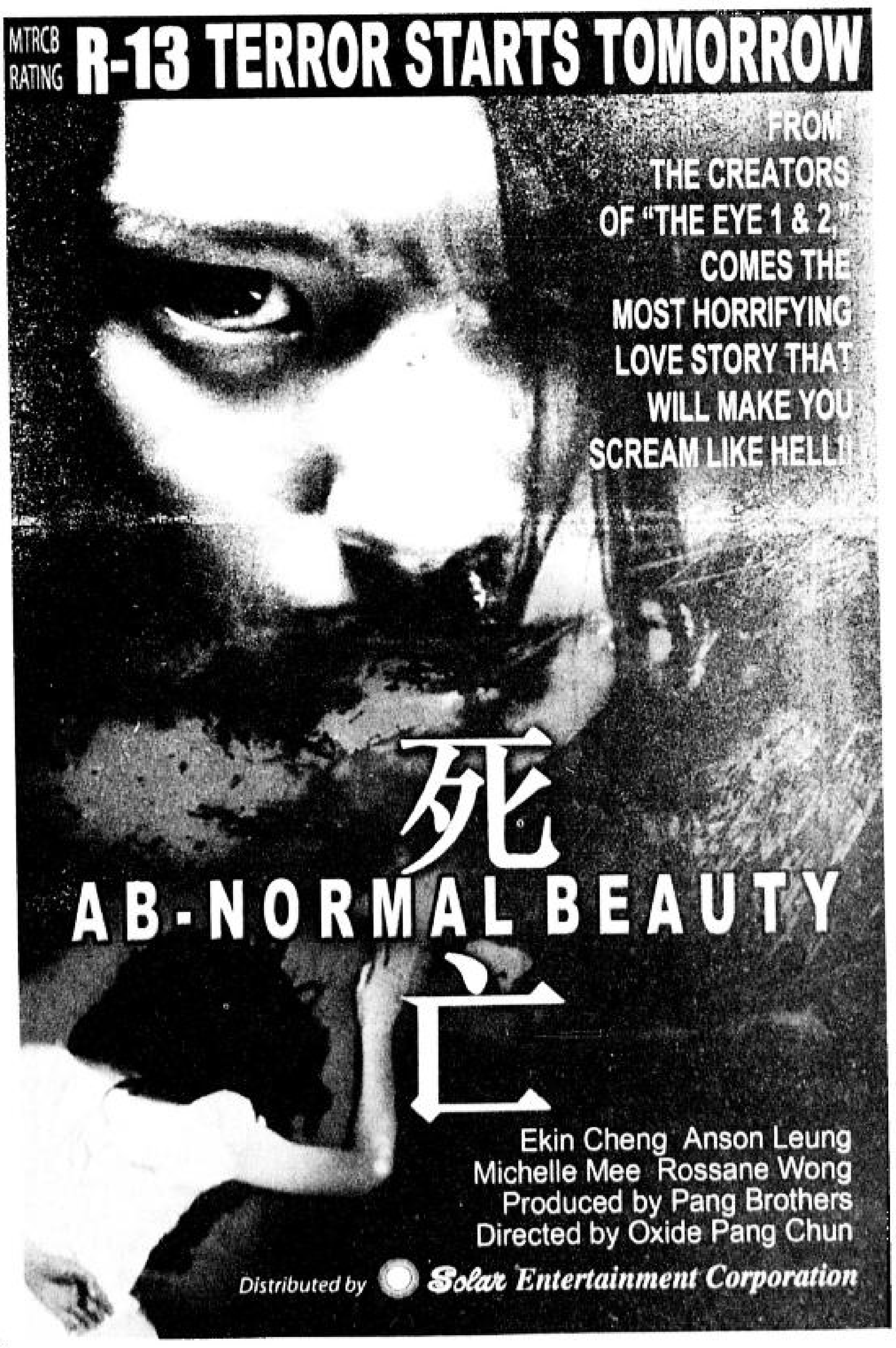
CHA TAE-HYUN
MY SASSY GIRL
NEW TAGALOG VERSION
(Featuring the Hit Song "I BELIEVE" by Jimmy Bondoc)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Exciting month at the CCP

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Theater for children, painting exhibits, contests for young artists...

THE CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES has lined up exciting activities and productions for the month of November:

"Sining and Chikiting" is a celebration of children's creative power. Tanghalang Bulilit performances include (Nov. 8-9) "Myth of King Midas" by the Philippine Playhouse; (Nov. 10-11) "Si Sita at si Rama" by Teatrong Mulat ng Pilipinas; (Nov. 15-16) "Prinsipe ng Buwan" by Tanghalang Pilipino; (Nov. 17-18) "Prinsipe Rodante" by Dulaang Don Galo.

In the visual arts, the Philippine Art Educators Association of the Philippines presents the exhibit, "Sining Bata: Kwentong Bayan," ongoing till Dec. 7.

Also watch out for the 2005 National Music Competition for Young Artists in various CCP venues from Nov. 22 to 27. Categories include college and youth choirs, high school *rondallas*, solo voice, solo strings, guitar, traditional music arts, and ballet.

The NAMCYA tilt has discovered many fine young music artists in the past.

Philippine Ballet Theater is staging "Cinderella" on Nov. 18-20.

Arts Therapy workshops: Nov. 21-25, Sining sa Eskwela in Cauayan City, Isabela. Nov. 28-Dec. 2, a Batang Sining creative expression workshop in San Mariano, Isabela.

Other shows, for older audiences: "Waiting in the Wings," previews of new works, like Music Theater Foundation's "Maria Makiling at mga Nuno sa Punso" (Nov. 10), and the Tambul and Theater Dance Ensemble on Nov. 24.

Late Nite Cabaret at Silangan Hall: Nov. 10 "Reuben Laurente Live"; Nov. 25 "A Musical Night with John Arcilla."

Nov. 11, the Philippine PhilHarmonic Orchestra in "Remembering," featuring "Remembrances" by **Margaret Brouwer**, "From the Diary of Anne Frank" by **Michael Tilson Thomas**, and "Symphony No. 1 in C minor Op. 21" by **Beethoven**. **Eugene Castillo** conducts.

Nov. 11-20, Tanghalang Pilipino's "Noli Me Tangere, (The Musical)."

Exhibits: Until Nov. 27, **Brenda Fajardo's** retrospective exhibit. Nov. 17 to Dec. 31, "Anton del Castillo: Under One Roof."

Nov. 23, pianist **Mary Anne Espina**'s concert (Filipino Artists Series IV).

Today, Nov. 8, screening of the Italian film "Il Postino" (The Postman) at the Dream Theater.

And, on dzRH-AM Radio, at 2:45 p.m. on Nov. 12, the award-winning program, "Sugpuin ang Korupsiyon," focuses on anomalies in the area of overseas employment.

New Nickelodeon shows

WATCH out for a Bonifacio Day (Nov. 30) special on "The Adventures of Jimmy Netron." For more exciting highlights, log on to www.nicksplat.com.

'Confessions on a Dance Floor'

IN HER new CD, "Confessions on a Dance Floor," **Madonna** reinvents dance music for our time. Set to arrive in stores on Nov. 15, the new release features a dozen originals.

Christmas Album

RICHARD **Merk** recently released his first Christmas album. The cuts include "Silver Bells," "Christmas Song," "First Noel" and "Grown-Up Christmas List." The album also features the Fifth Gospel Choir and vocal supervision is by **Jacqui Magno**. Call 757-4720.

'Joys of Healing'

"THE JOYS of Healing," an album of songs of praise, gratitude and faith, was adjudged Religious Album of the Year by the Catholic Mass Media Awards. It features the voices of Backroom Artists, as well as prayers and words of wisdom from the late **Rio Diaz-Cojuangco**. Call 435-3808.

'Past Perfect'

THE 2005 MCO Arts Festival concludes with a concert, "Past Perfect" featuring singers **Patrice Pacis, Eugene Villaluz**, pianist **Della Gamboa-Besa**, flutist **Tony Maigue** and guitarist **Butch Roxas** interpreting the hits of **George Gershwin, Cole Porter** and **Richard Rogers**, on Nov. 12 at the Francisco Santiago Hall. Call 840-7000, local 2258.

SHOW TIME

Lea at Carnegie

LEA Salonga makes her Carnegie Hall debut Nov. 7 (this morning, Manila time). The show will benefit Diverse City Theater Company (DCT), a groundbreaking theater company in New York City that promotes diversity in the theater.

The acclaimed singer said of the show: "For so many years I've walked past this great building, dreaming that one day I would perform in concert here. It is a place where many dreams have come true and [now] mine will as well."

No televised

. . . From page A20

lenge: Astig," "Qpids," "Stardance" and "Star-Struck." **Showbiz-Oriented Program:** "ETK: Entertainment Konek," "S-Files," "Showbiz Stripped," "Startalk" and "The Buzz."

Celebrity Talk Show: "Homeboy," "Mel & Joey," "Sis," "Secrets" and "Y Speak." **Youth-Oriented Drama Series:** "Joyride," "Love To Love: Season Four" and "SCQ Reload."

Showbiz-Oriented Program Host: Boy Abunda, Kris Aquino, Paolo Bediones, Butch Francisco, Toni Gonzaga, Ricky Lo and Lorna Tolentino. **Celebrity Talk Show Host:** Boy Abunda, Ryan Agoncillo, Karen Davila, Joey de Leon, Juliana Palermo and Mel Tiangco.

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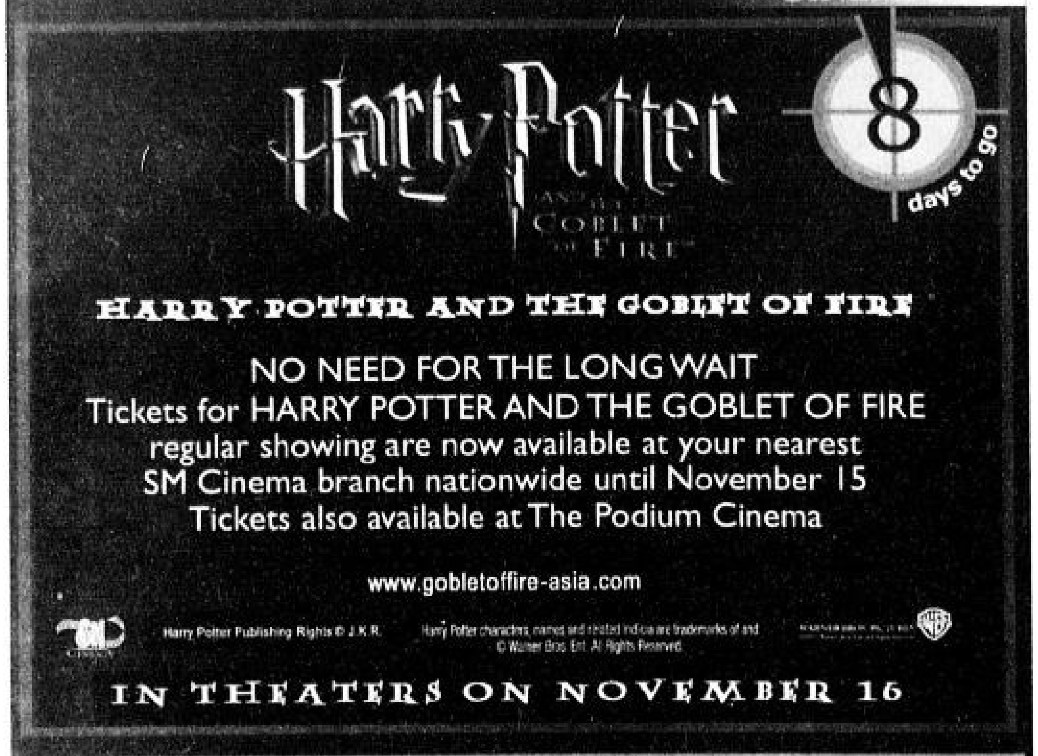

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire
8 days to go

HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE

NO NEED FOR THE LONG WAIT
Tickets for HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE regular showing are now available at your nearest SM Cinema branch nationwide until November 15
Tickets also available at The Podium Cinema

www.gobletoffire-asia.com

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IN THEATERS ON NOVEMBER 16

movietime SCHEDULE AND EVENTS

FILM FESTIVAL
Megamall
ISRAELI FILM FESTIVAL
Nov. 14-19
Cinema 6

RED CARPET PREMIERE
Megamall
ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
Nov. 14 • Cinema 1

Megamall
EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
Nov. 21 • Cinema 1

Megamall
THE MYTH
Nov. 18 • Cinema 1

Megamall
AN UNFINISHED LIFE
Nov. 29 • Cinema 2

GUARANTEED SEATS

THE PODIUM 633-8976
1 FOUR BROTHERS 01:30FS/01:50MF/04:10/06:30 08:20LFS/09:00LMF/10:50END
2 LEGEND OF ZORRO 12:30FS/01:00MF/03:35/06:15 08:25LFS/09:00LMF/11:10END

MEGAMALL
1 DOOM 12:15FS/12:40MF/02:55/05:10/07:25 09:10LFS/09:40LMF/11:25END

CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 DOOM 12:00FS/12:10MF/02:02/03:54/05:46/07:38 09:23LFS/09:30LMF/11:15END
2 LEGEND OF ZORRO 11:20FS/11:30MF/02:00/04:30/07:00 09:11LFS/09:30LMF/11:40END
3 TRANSPORTER 2 11:20FS/11:30MF/01:10/04:30/06:10 07:50/09:20LFS/09:30LMF/11:00END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1. DOOM
2. 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
3. LEGEND OF ZORRO
4. ISPIRISTISTA
5. DOMINO
6. LORD OF WAR
7. WAITING
8. THE GHOST INSIDE
9. FOUR BROTHERS
10. TRUMPETS: LITTLE MERMAID
11. DEUCE BIGALOW
12. MY SASSY GIRL

SM CITY STA MESA
1. LEGEND OF ZORRO
2. DOOM
3. FOUR BROTHERS
4. WAITING
5. ISPIRITISTA
6. DEUCE BIGALOW
7. DOOM
8. THE GHOST INSIDE
9. MY SASSY GIRL
10. DUBAI

SM CITY BICUTAN
1. LEGEND OF ZORRO
2. ISPIRITISTA
3. THE GHOST INSIDE
4. DOMINO

SM VALENZUELA
1. LEGEND OF ZORRO
2. ISPIRITISTA
3. THE GHOST INSIDE
4. DOOM

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1. DEUCE BIGALOW
2. LORD OF WAR
3. DOOM
4. FOUR BROTHERS
5. DOMINO
6. ISPIRITISTA
7. LEGEND OF ZORRO
8. ISPIRITISTA
9. MY SASSY GIRL
10. THE GHOST INSIDE
11. LAND OF THE DEAD
12. DUBAI

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1. LEGEND OF ZORRO
2. ISPIRITISTA
3. DOOM
4. DOMINO
5. WAITING
6. DUBAI
7. FOUR BROHTERS
8. THE GHOST INSIDE
9. 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
10. MY SASSY GIRL

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1. WAITING
2. DOMINO
3. ISPIRITISTA
4. LEGEND OF ZORRO

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1. LEGEND OF ZORRO
2. WAITING
3. ISPIRITISTA
4. MY SASSY GIRL
5. THE GHOST INSIDE
6. DOOM
7. FOUR BROTHERS
8. DOMINO

SM CITY MANILA
1. DOOM
2. LEGEND OF ZORRO
3. MY SASSY GIRL
4. FOUR BROTHERS
5. DOMINO
6. LEGEND OF ZORRO
7. ISPIRITISTA
8. 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
9. ISPIRITISTA
10. DEUCE BIGALOW
11. WAITING
12. THE GHOST INSIDE

SM CINEMA SAN LAZARO
1. LEGEND OF ZORRO
2. DOMINO
3. WAITING
4. DOOM
5. ISPIRITISTA
6. ISPIRITISTA

MAXI MEDIA presents
Kyla
In an evening of great R & B music and selected repertoire of hits.
Keep It REAL
November 19, 2005
Saturday 8:00 pm
SM North EDSA Cinema 1
SM Cinema CENTERstage
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Available at National Book Store Ticketworld 891-9810 / 891-9999
Tower Records Makati Alabang
For inquiries call MAXI MEDIA 551-7777
RESERVED SEATS ON ALL SECTIONS

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1. LEGEND OF ZORRO
2. DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
3. DOOM
4. ISPIRITISTA
5. TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
6. ISPIRITISTA

SM CITY BAGUIO
1. LEGEND OF ZORRO
2. INTO THE BLUE
3. ISPIRITISTA
4. DOOM

SM CITY BACOOR
1. WAITING
2. DUBAI
3. LEGEND OF ZORRO
4. ISPIRITISTA
5. DOMINO
6. ISPIRITISTA
7. MY SASSY GIRL
8. DOOM

SM CITY MARILAO
1. LEGEND OF ZORRO
2. 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
3. ISPIRITISTA
4. TRANSPORTER 2

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1. LEGEND OF ZORRO
2. INTO THE BLUE
3. ISPIRITISTA
4. DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS

SM CITY LUCENA
1. LEGEND OF ZORRO
2. LORD OF WAR
3. INTO THE BLUE
4. ISPIRITISTA

SM CITY BATANGAS
1. LORD OF WAR
2. ISPIRITISTA
3. LEGEND OF ZORRO
4. A SOUND OF THUNDER

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1. DOOM
2. LEGEND OF ZORRO
3. TRANSPORTER 2
4. TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
5. TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
6. WAITING
7. ISPIRITISTA
8. DEUCE BIGALOW

SM CITY ILOILO
1. LORD OF WAR
2. RESERVED
3. WALLACE AND GROMIT
4. ISPIRITISTA
5. LEGEND OF ZORRO
6. DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
7. RESERVED
8. BLADE OF ROSE

SM CITY DAVAO
1. LEGEND OF ZORRO
2. 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
3. ISPIRITISTA
4. ONE MISSED CALL 2
5. WALLACE AND GROMIT
6. DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1. LEGEND OF ZORRO
2. WALLACE AND GROMIT
3. INTO THE BLUE
4. LORD OF WAR

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

Get your tickets to "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" in advance starting November 1, 2005
Film opens November 16.

For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 FOUR BROTHERS 12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00 R-13
2 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 11:40, 2:30, 5:20, 8:10, 11:00 GP
3 DOMINO 11:40, 2:25, 5:10, 7:55, 10:40 R-13
4 WAITING 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00 R-13

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

DOMINO R13 2:20,5:00,7:40	THE LEGEND OF ZORRO GP 12:50,3:30,6:10,8:50	WAITING R13 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:00
FOUR BROTHERS R13 1:10,3:30,5:50,8:10	SHARKBOY AND LAVAGIRL GP 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55	THE LEGEND OF ZORRO GP 1:50,4:30,7:10,9:50

SHANG CINEPLEX

① FOUR BROTHERS MTRCB R-13 2.00, 4.40, 7.20, 10:00 LMF
② THE LEGEND OF ZORRO MTRCB GP 1 55 4 40 7 25 10 10 LMF
③ WAITING MTRCB R-13 12.40, 3.00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
④ DOMINO MTRCB R-13 12 55, 3 40, 6 25, 9:10 LMF

PREMIERE THEATRE THE LEGEND OF ZORRO MTRCB GP 12.45, 3 30, 6 15, 9 00 LMF
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Catch the Cineplex Special

"HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE" OPENS IN SHANG CINEPLEX ON NOV. 16. GET YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE STARTING OCT. 28!

Regular Ticket Price
Cinemas 1 to 4 - P150
Premiere Theatre - P295 (includes unlimited popcorn and beverages)
Call 633-7851, loc. 171 or 633-2227 / 633-4738 for more details

Shangri-La Plaza

Araneta Center Leisure Guide.

CINEMA SCHEDULES

Gateway Cineplex 10 LEVEL 4, GATEWAY MALL
ONLY P99 ADMISSION
P120 RESERVED SEATS
GLOBE PLATINUM P249 / P299
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX

FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555

	GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 1:20 / 4:05 / 6:50 / 9:35	THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 12.45 / 3:30 / 6:15 / 9:00
THE FOUR BROTHERS 1:05 / 3:50 / 6:35 / 9:20	DEUCE BIGALOW 2 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30
WAITING 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20	DOOM 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
THE GHOST INSIDE 12:30 / 2:40 / 4:50 / 7:00 / 9:10	ISPIRITISTA 1:40 / 4:10 / 6:40 / 9:10
DOMINO 12:50 / 3:40 / 6:30 / 9:20	THE 40 YR OLD VIRGIN 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00

ALI MALL CINEMAS

① ISPIRITISTA 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00	④ THE GHOST INSIDE 12:10 R3 / 1:35 / 3:45 / 5:55 / 8:05
② THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 12:00 R2 / 2:25 / 5:10 / 7:55	⑤ DOMINO 12:00 / 2:50 / 5:40 / 8:30
③ THE FOUR BROTHERS 12:20 / 3:05 / 5:50 / 8:35	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS

Nov. 9 Wed	SAN MIGUEL vs STA LUCIA	4.40 pm
	COCA COLA vs PUREFOODS	7:25 pm
Nov. 11 Friday	SAN MIGUEL vs AIR 21	4:40 pm
	GINEBRA vs RED BULL	7:25 pm

LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA
632-9116

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2• THX
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

2 ISPIRITISTA
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

3 GHOST INSIDE
1:20 3:25 5:30 7:35 9:40

4 DOMINO
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

5 WAITING
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

6 FOUR BROTHERS
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

7 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

8 MY SASSY GIRL
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

9 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
12:20 2:50 5:20 7:50 10:00

10 DOOM
12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50

ERMITA
536-7809 to 12

1 DOMINO
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

2 WAITING
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 GHOST INSIDE
12:30 2:30 4:30 6:30 8:25 10:00

4 ISPIRITISTA
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

5 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

6 FOUR BROTHERS
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

7 MY SASSY GIRL 12:00 2:30
DOOM 5:05 7:25 10:00

METRO EAST
682 8193 • 682 8199

1 LORD OF WAR
1:40 4:10 6:35 9:00

2 ISPIRITISTA
1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

3 GHOST INSIDE
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

4 DOMINO
12:50 3:35 6:20 9:05

5 DOOM
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

6 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00

7 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
12:40 3:20 6:00 9:00

8 MY SASSY GIRL
1:40 4:00 6:20 9:00

NOVALICHES
935-3231 / 935-3229 30

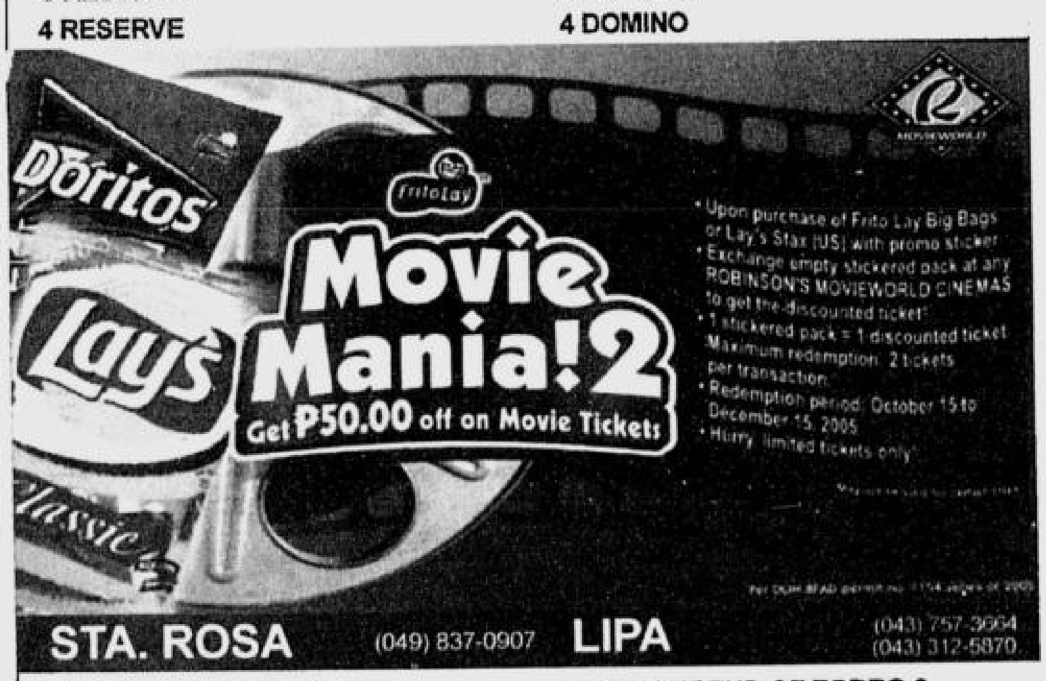
1 ISPIRITISTA
2 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO
3 DOOM
4 GHOST INSIDE

CITISQUARE MALABON
288-2575

1 MY SASSY GIRL
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER
687-5378

1 FOUR BROTHERS
2 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO
3 WAITING
4 DOMINO



Movie Mania!2
Get P50.00 off on Movie Tickets

- Upon purchase of Frito Lay Big Bags or Lay's Stax (US) with promo sticker
- Exchange empty stickered pack at any ROBINSON'S MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS to get the discounted ticket!
- 1 stickered pack = 1 discounted ticket Maximum redemption: 2 tickets per transaction
- Redemption period: October 15 to December 15, 2005
- Hurry, limited tickets only!

STA. ROSA
(049) 837-0907

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 DOOM
3 UNDISCOVERED
4 ISPIRITISTA

LIPA
(043) 757-3664
(043) 312-5870

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 UNDISCOVERED
4 LORD OF WAR

DASMARIÑAS
(046) 852-2125
(046) 416 4332

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
2 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2
3 INTO THE BLUE
4 ISPIRITISTA

ANGELES
(045) 892-2348

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 CORPSE BRIDE
4 DOOM

IMUS
(046) 875 [illegible]
(046) 471 [illegible]

1 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2
2 WAITING
3 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
4 ISPIRITISTA

STARMILLS
(045) [illegible]
(045) [illegible]

1 WILD SIDE
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 CORPSE BRIDE
4 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2
5 DOOM
6 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2

BACOLOD
(034) 441 0453
(034) 441-0450

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
2 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 INTO THE BLUE
5 SHANGHAI LILY
6 A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

ILOILO
(033) 336 8070

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
2 LORD OF WAR
3 THE DESCENT
4 WALLACE AND GROMIT

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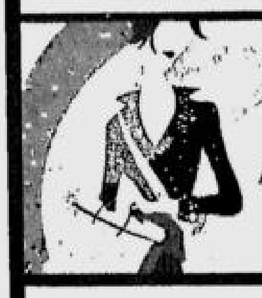
AYALA CENTER
GLORIETTA • Greenbelt

ALABANG TOWN

AYALA CENTER CEBU

AYALA MALLS
Lovemall!



AYALA CENTER
GLORIETTA
AYALA MALLS
Lovemall!

Shop & Win at Glorietta 1
July 1 - December 15, 2005

Win Nokia, Sony Ericsson Cellphones with Prepaid Kits, Gameboy Advance, iPod Shuffle, DVD Players and Electronic Gift Certificates on the monthly draws. On the Grand Raffle Draw, get a chance to win **P10,000 and P50,000 CASH Tax Free!**

See leaflets for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A1-483, Series of 2005

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
Ansons Appliances Exhibit November 2 to 16, 2005	AV Surfer October 31 to November 15 Christmas Serenade w/ Afinity Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30	DSWD's Regional Children's Contest November 8

AYALA GREENBELT

Tree Lighting Ceremony
November 10, 2005 - Greenbelt 3 Lobby
Anton Ramos & The Phil. Philharmonic Orchestra Show
November 12 to 13, 2005 - Greenbelt 3 Park

Greenbelt Onstage

REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents
MAN OF LA MANCHA - The Musical
at REP's GLOBE THEATER
November 11 to December 18, 2005
For inquiries, please call 887-0710

Ayala MUSEUM

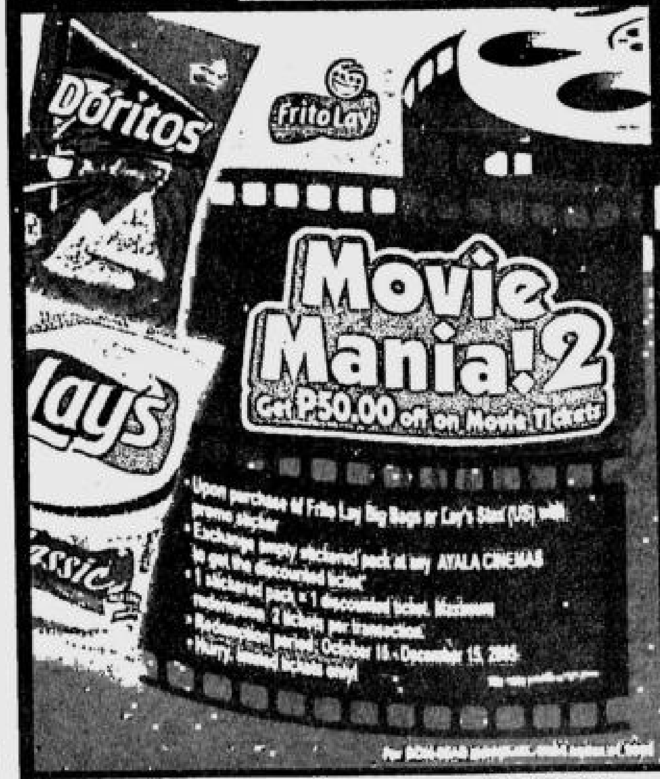
Registration for Art Workshops now on-going at Ayala Museum
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29.
Online registration at www.ayalamuseum.org

AYALA CINEMAS

Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729 7777

G1	GLORIETTA 1	1 FOUR BROTHERS	2 LEGEND OF ZORRO	3 DOMINO	4 ISPIRITISTA		
G4	GLORIETTA 4	1 WAITING	2 DOMINO	3 THX LEGEND OF ZORRO 2 00, 4 50, 7 40, 10 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 DEUCE BIGALOW: EUROPEAN GIGOLO	5 THE 40 YR. OLD VIRGIN	6 FOUR BROTHERS
		7 ISPIRITISTA					
GB1	GREENBELT 1	1 LEGEND OF ZORRO 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:45	2 CINEMANILA For inquiries, call 750-4180 to 81				
GB3	GREENBELT 3	1 THX FOUR BROTHERS 2 00, 4 20, 6 40, 9 00, 11 20 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX LEGEND OF ZORRO 2 45, 5 30, 8 15, 11 00 GUARANTEED SEATS	3 THE 40 YR. OLD VIRGIN 2 10, 4 30, 6 50, 9 10, 11 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 WAITING 1:30, 3 30, 5 30, 7 30, 9 30, 11 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 DOMINO 1:00, 3 35, 6 10, 8 45, 11 20 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX LEGEND OF ZORRO	2 FOUR BROTHERS	3 DOMINO	4 ISPIRITISTA	5 WAITING	
ACC	AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 LEGEND OF ZORRO	2 CORPSE BRIDE	3 WALLACE & GROMIT	4 WAITING		



Movie Mania!2
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- Exchange empty stickered pack at any AYALA CINEMAS to get the discounted ticket
- 1 stickered pack = 1 discounted ticket. Maximum redemption: 2 tickets per transaction.
- Redemption period: October 15 - December 15, 2005
- Hurry, limited tickets only!

7th CINEMANILA international film festival NOV. 2-8
AYALA SCREENINGS

	11:30 am	2:00 pm	4:30 pm	7:00 pm	9:30 pm
NOV 2	My Nikifor	Neighbor no. 13	Dear Wendy	My Nikifor	Tae Guk Gi
NOV 3	The Isle	The Isle	The Isle	The Isle	The Isle
NOV 4	The Isle	The Isle	The Isle	YOUNG CINEMA NIGHT 2	Sailing Songs of Leyte/ Cavite
NOV 5	Clean	Joint Security Area	Rigodon	War Photographer	My Summer of Love
NOV 6		Whale Rider	My Summer of Love	Clean	My Summer of Love
NOV 7	Joint Security Area	Tae Guk Gi	Dear Wendy	Tae Guk Gi	Joint Security Area
NOV 8	Tae Guk Gi	Dear Wendy	Joint Security Area	Bow Barracks Forever	Joint Security Area

Ayala Cinema (Greenbelt 1 Cinema 2) tel. no. 7297777
Schedules are subject to change without further notice.

Customer Service text hotline:	0917 6095900
Customer Service text hotline:	Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm Greenbelt - 757 4853; from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center -	842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu -	(032) 231 5342 loc 324

All-Digital Cinemas

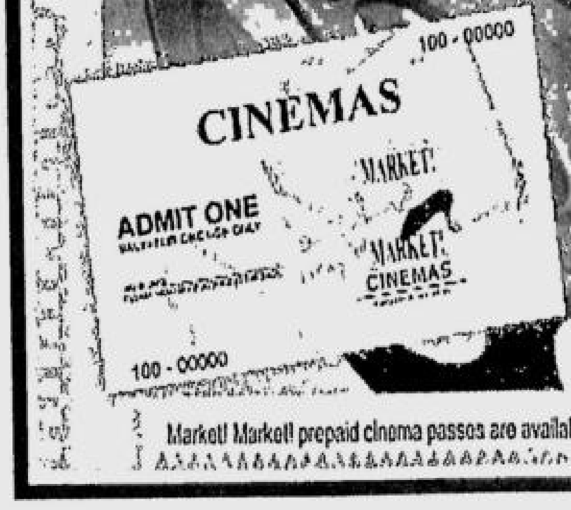
MARKET! MARKET!
The fun is in the finds
Developed and managed by Ayala Land, Inc.

Movies are subject to change without prior notice.
Customer Service Hotline: 886-7515

Free Seating Cinemas: P80.00

① THE LEGEND OF ZORRO
② MY SASSY GIRL
③ DEUCE BIGALOW: The European Gigolo
④ DOOM
⑤ ISPIRITISTA

EVENTS! EVENTS!



PREPAID CINEMA PASS
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Only from MARKET! MARKET!
Where the fun is in the movie finds!

Market! Market! prepaid cinema passes are available at the cinema ticket booth.

Fun jam: FrancisM & Maxene

He's proud of her'; she's proud of him; AUGUST DELA CRUZ

By Marinel R. Cruz

FRANCIS MAGALONA knows his 18-year-old daughter, Maxene, has a boyfriend.

But the singer-TV host said he wasn't at all worried, "even if Maxene lives in Quezon City while her mom, Pia, and I stay in Antipolo."

Francis told INQUIRER Entertainment over-lunch yesterday, "I tell her she should take responsibility for all her actions and concentrate on things that are important. I don't have problems with her dating."

Maxene is a college sophomore in Theater Arts at the Ateneo de Manila. She shares a condo unit with siblings, Frank and Saab near their school.

"I'm very proud of the way my parents raised us," Maxene said. "I miss my younger siblings, but studies are my priority."

Francis said, "This new show that Maxene and I are hosting gives all of us a good opportunity to bond. We tape during weekends and bring along the whole family."

Father and daughter are hosts of QTV 11's, "Fam Jam," a talent search featuring 12 families that will compete for a P1-million top prize. It is produced by KB Entertainment Unlimited, Inc., and premieres Nov. 12 at 5 p.m.

INQUIRER Entertainment had a fun jam with FrancisM and Maxene during the show's launch.

FrancisM

Do you think Maxene is old enough to accept suitors?

Pia and I have a certain style of parenting. We train our kids to be independent at an early age. We guide them but we don't make *tutok*. Maxene is already independent in terms of her finances, love life and studies.

Would you look kindly on a suitor with tattoos?

There's this saying, "Don't judge a book by its cover." It the same as, "Don't judge a guy by his tattoos (laughs)."

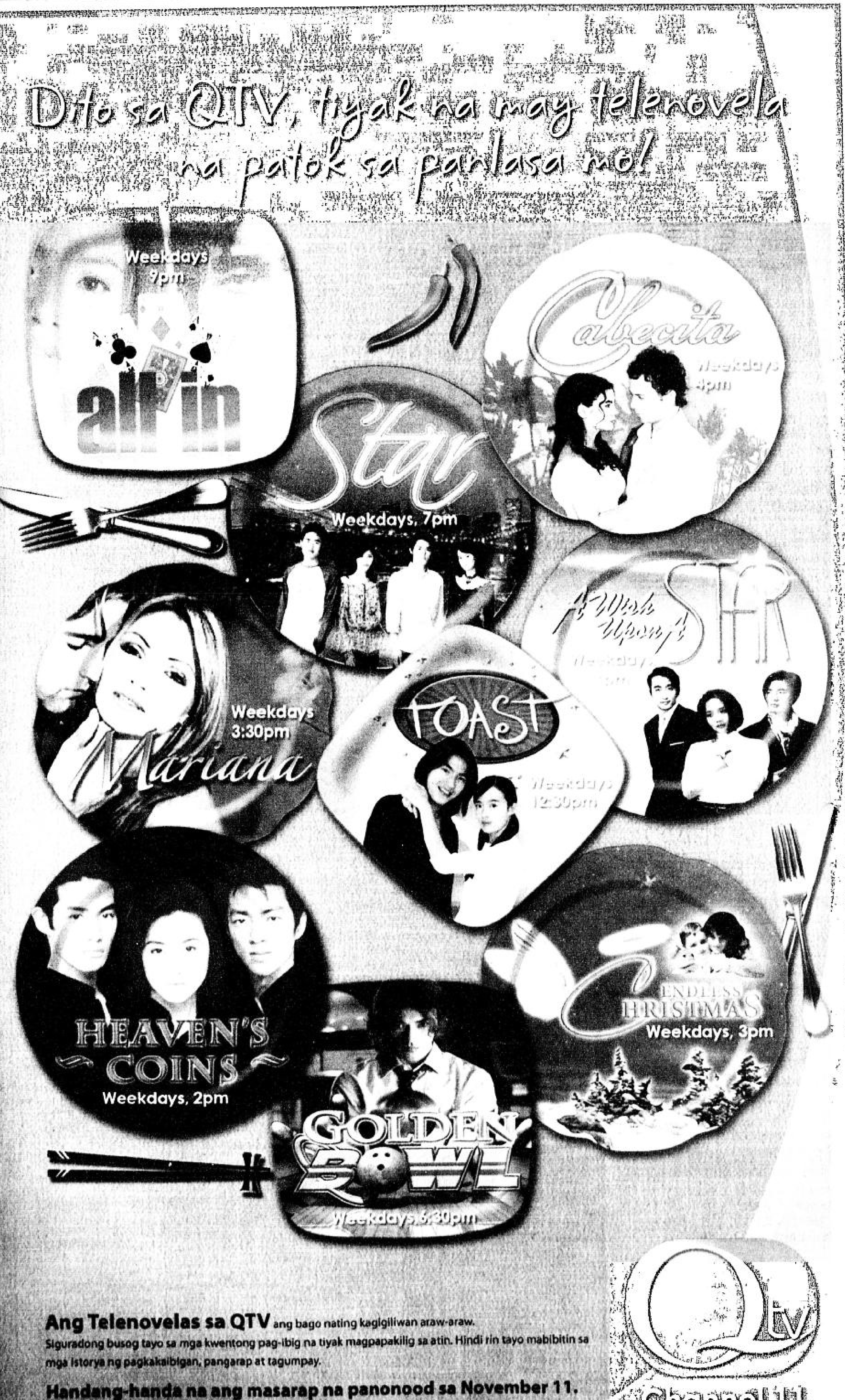
How many tattoos do you have?

More than 10. The first one I ever wore was a shark in my arm, made in Olongapo in 1986. The latest is the Three Stars and a Sun—the Philippine flag—on my back, done in 1999.

Would you allow your kids to wear tattoos?

When they turn 18, they can do whatever they want. I'd step in only if I see that things are going overboard. My second son, Nico-

FUN/ A21



Ang Telenovelas sa QTV ang bago nating kagigiliwan araw-araw.

Siguradong busog tayo sa mga kwentong pag-ibig na tiyak magpapakilig sa atin. Hindi rin tayo mabibitin sa mga istorya ng pagkakaibigan, pangarap at tagumpay.

Handang-handa na ang masarap na panonood sa November 11. QTV. Qualtiy Television powered by GMA Network.

Mapapanood ang QTV sa Channel 27 sa Cebu at Davao.

Jericho says 'Panday' is 'breathtaking'

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

PHILIPPINE TV'S MOST AWAITED EPIC SEries finally begins tomorrow, when ABS-CBN unveils "Panday" on its "Primetime Bida" block.

Tonight they will air part 2 of the "making of" special on Panday, titled "Ang Alamat Ng Espada." The two-part special which started yesterday takes viewers behind the scenes of this spectacular production.

Jericho Rosales leads an all-star cast in this lavish reworking of the legendary story first made famous by **Carlo J. Caparas** in Pilipino Comics. It proceeded to make Philippine movie history through a series of blockbuster films starring the late **Fernando Poe Jr.**

"This whole project is breathtaking," enthuses **Jericho Rosales**, who plays Tristan, a humble *kargador* who inherits the mission and sword of the Panday, savior of mankind. "I've wanted to play this role for a long time, and the project, as produced by ABS-CBN, is definitely a dream come true for me."

Jericho underwent a rigid training regimen which included wushu and other martial arts, horseback riding, sword-fighting and weight training. Caparas says, "I've seen the first few episodes. I'm happy to say that he is a worthy successor to FPJ, because while FPJ made the role legendary to several generations, Jericho is part of a new breed that can reach out to a new audience. I know that if FPJ were around to see the show, and Echo's performance as the new Panday, he'd give a thumbs-up. Maybe even a double thumbs-up."

Let's see if Panday's sword can crush "Encantadia's" mystical powers in the ratings game.

Speaking of "Panday," heard from an insider that Jericho's leading lady, **Heart Evangelista**, is not so well-liked in the network because of some attitude problem. My source says, "She gets into this don't-touch-me-I'm-a- great-actress mode." Maybe she needs to have a heart-to-heart talk with her "Kapamilya," lest her followers have a change of heart.

Rivermaya and the SEA

RIVERMAYA, dubbed "Ang Banda ng Bayan," launches a tribute to Filipino athletes participating in the SEA Games 2005. The Philippines will be the host country for the landmark sports event from Nov. 27-Dec. 5.

Titled "Posible," this latest anthem from the band premiered yesterday in various radio stations. "It's about courage, strength and commitment to be the best," said Rivermaya frontman **Rico Blanco**. "These are qualities our Filipino athletes have in spades. This song was not only written for them; it was inspired by them."

Rivermaya is set to perform at glittering ceremonies to open the games at the Qurino Grandstand. They will be featured in the finale of a two-hour musical extravaganza featuring music from all 11 participating Southeast Asian countries—Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste and Vietnam. The show will be broadcast *live* across Asia. Let's keep our fingers crossed that our athletes will all do a Pacquiao and make *pakyaw* all the medals.

SEA of problems?

STILL on the SEA games, a production staff member laments that there are still no definite groups to handle the coverage of each event. "The coverage will be split among Channels 5, 13 and 4," he says. "Everything is so disorganized! To think the games start in a few weeks. Channel 5 wants more events but they don't have enough technical facilities. Hope that the millions that major sponsors are pouring in to the games won't be misplaced." Hopefully, they will be able to iron out the kinks lest the SEA games turn into a sea of problems.

No contest

ECHO/ A21

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Forex reserves slip to $18.09B in Oct.

But still above ’05 target

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY’S gross international reserves (GIR) dipped to $18.09 billion in end-October from an all-time high of $18.54 billion a month due to the servicing of foreign obligations.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. reported yesterday that while this was 2.5-percent lower than the end-September level, the current reserves build-up still exceeded the end-2005 target of $17 billion.

“As expected, the decline in the GIR level was attributed mainly to the payments of maturing foreign exchange obligations of the national government and the Bangko Sentral,” Tetangco said. “The outflows, however, were partly offset by the Bangko Sentral’s foreign exchange operations and income from investments abroad.”

The GIR—consisting of the BSP’s gross foreign currency holdings, gold reserves, special drawing rights from multilateral institutions and foreign investments—is an indicator of the country’s ability to service its foreign exchange requirements for activities like importation and debt servicing.

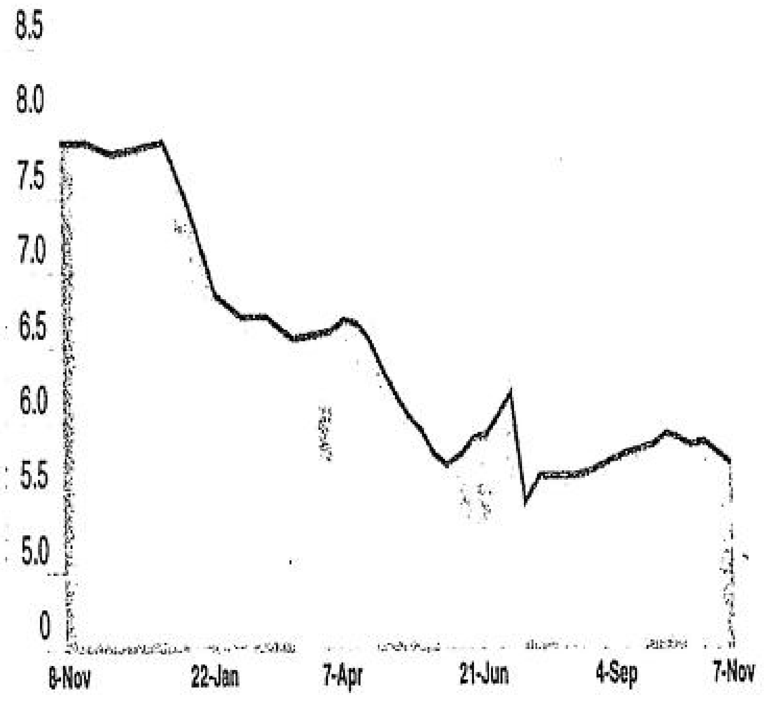
The BSP also dips into its foreign reserves to supply dollars to the spot foreign exchange market whenever there is a need to quell speculative attacks against the peso. A large GIR build-up thus provides psychological support for the peso by improving the BSP’s war chest at the foreign exchange market.

“The end-October GIR level was adequate to cover about four months of imports of goods and payments of services and income,” Tetangco said.

“The level was also equivalent to three times the country’s short-term debt based on original maturity and 1.6 times based on residual maturity,” he said.

FOREX/ B4

91-DAY TREASURY BILL RATES



91-DAY RATE AT 5.698%

Treasury bill rates decline

By Michelle V. Remo

TREASURY BILL RATES DROPPED across all maturities yesterday, as the lingering high liquidity among banks combined with fresh market optimism brought by the implementation of the new VAT law.

The bellwether 91-day rate fell 14.9 basis points to 5.698 percent. The three-month debt instrument was more than four times over-subscribed, showing strong market appetite.

Tenders for the 91-day bills reached P4.02 billion compared with the government’s offering of only P1 billion. The Bureau of Treasury’s auction committee accepted P1 billion worth of bids.

“The decline was expected because of the developments on the fiscal side, punctuated by the implementation of the new VAT law last Nov. 1,” National Treasurer Omar Cruz said in a briefing after the auctions.

The 182-day bill fetched a rate of 7.825 percent, or 7.4 basis points lower than the previous auction. The six-month government securities attracted the most number of bids, with tenders reaching P8.14 billion compared with the government’s offering of only P1.5 billion. The Treasury accepted its entire borrowing schedule for the six-month bill of P1.5 billion.

The rate for the 364-day bills declined by 3.2 basis points to 8.92 percent. Tenders for the one-year bills reached P5.9 billion, or almost three times higher than the P2-billion offering of the government.

Yesterday’s auction was the first since the expanded VAT law was implemented last Tuesday, following four months of suspension by the Supreme Court. Officials said both the international and domestic capital markets were awaiting the implementation of the law, which is seen to largely solve the government’s lingering fiscal problem.

The law basically expanded the coverage of the tax to include oil and electricity among others, and will raise the VAT rate from 10 to 12 per-

T-BILL/ B4

Ayala Land acquires Zuellig lot

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PROPERTY GIANT AYALA LAND INC. (ALI) yesterday said it has acquired a 1.2-hectare property in Makati City from the Zuellig Group by swapping shares in a subsidiary worth P587.59 million.

Under the agreement, ALI will swap 11.04 million shares it holds in Oxbury Realty Corp., a real-estate firm leasing a 4,601-square meter parcel of land along Makati Ave.

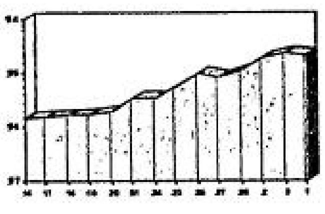
In exchange for these shares, the Zuellig Group, through Mercator Securities Corp., will give its 11.75 million shares in Crans Montana Property Holdings to ALI. Crans Montana owns the 1.2-hectare property at the ~~corner of~~ Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. (formerly Buendia) and Malugay St.

Sources said ALI might use the lot it acquired for residential projects similar to “Serendra” or

AYALA/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

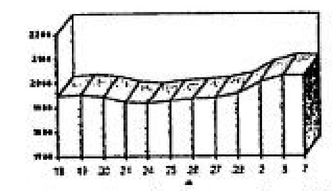
₱ 54.68 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Nov. 7, 2005

¥ 117.96 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Nov. 7, 2005

GOLD: $457.00-457.50
per ounce Hong Kong, Nov. 7, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares close flat

SHARE PRICES CLOSED FLAT yesterday, running into some profit-taking after a six-day rally took the market to three-month highs as investor confidence picked up, dealers said.

SHARES/ B2

WHAT’S INSIDE

All dressed up and nowhere to grow /B3

An Index-led rally /B3

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All dressed up and nowhere to grow

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

WHETHER OR NOT THIS CUTE ADMINISTRATION of Gloriaetta sees terrorists, criminals, or just plain imaginary ghosts in the GTEB, nobody can as yet say.

Still, by January next year, which is just two months away, this PR-challenged cute administration of Gloriaetta will begin the killing of that government outfit.

The GTEB is, of course, the Garments and Textiles Export Board, tasked by three executive orders to put order to the $28-billion garments exports industry.

And so the garments making sector, particularly those exporting companies, is appealing to this cute administration to take the GTEB out of the lethal injection table.

In effect, they think that the death of the GTEB will lead to the demise of their industry. That's why they are asking Malacañang to extend the life of the poor innocent GTEB for just two more years.

Thinking that they know better than this cute administration about their own industry that they built from scratch over the past 30 years, those companies are thus trying to give Gloriaetta one compelling reason to grant the GTEB presidential clemency.

How about, boss, without the GTEB, the industry will be left in a big vacuum in the ongoing trade talks with other countries on garments and textiles, which are only their own businesses?

I mean, come on, who will do the negotiating? Hellooool Don't tell me it's going to be Jose Pidall

***

WORSE, at least to the players in the garments industry that I've talked to, they never saw it coming. They had no inkling whatsoever that Gloriaetta would issue an executive order to abolish the GTEB.

After all, back in 1986, the GTEB was the first posting in the government of an unknown ex-teacher, a certain Gloria Arroyo.

Still, this cute administration never even consulted them!

Let me see if I get this right—so Malacañang, in wanting to make an impression that this cute administration is still on top of things, wants to abolish an outfit that can help some 200,000 companies with multibillion-peso investments, exporting roughly $28 billion worth of goods every year, employing about 400,000 people, thus indirectly benefiting some two to three million people all in all, AND THEY DID NOT EVEN FIGURE IN THE MALACAÑANG EQUATION—is that it?

How could such a crucial measure take the force of law, without the people affected by it even knowing what the heck was going on? Ah, *basta*, let us just abolish the GTEB, period.

Last time I checked, we were still under a democracy, and this cute administration had yet to make its definitive move for the return of martial rule.

What explains this mysterious and secret measure? Don't tell me that somebody was hurrying to destroy any evidence at the GTEB or something.

***

BUT THE thing is, the government never even spends its own money on the GTEB. The garments companies themselves finance the operations of the GTEB. They—each and every garments company, whether big or small—must remit all sorts of fees to the GTEB.

Let me say it again—private sector money, and not the government's, runs the GTEB. By this alone, the garments sector has all the right to be heard on the matter.

After all, they (as financiers) are saying that the dressmaking industry needs the GTEB to grow.

But why should this cute administration care if the garments companies only want to waste their money on GTEB's silly activities, such as trade promotion and market development?

Look, other countries are hiring lobby groups in the United States for so-called preferential trade agreements. (Another word for this is "favoritism.")

If you have, er, "preferential trade agreement" with, say, the US government, you can sell garments to the world's richest consumers without paying tariffs, for instance.

But then you have to lobby the US government for it. I mean, such an arrangement does not just happen like an accident of life or an immaculate conception.

***

IN THIS world of endless official dealing, you really have to make it happen.

And the garments sector was thinking that, if given a new leash on life, the GTEB should fit such a new role in these times of world free trade.

Me, I think that we must abolish other useless government outfits, instead of GTEB, if we base the decision on their results and performances.

Take the housing outfits. Do we have houses? Squatter colonies are not only sprouting everywhere, they are also sprouting anywhere—even under the flyovers.

Or let's talk about this thing called Napocor. With its monopoly in the power sector for almost 40 years, we are fortunate indeed to have today the second most expensive electricity in all of Asia.

In comparison, the GTEB helped create a $28-billion industry. Again, the amount is denominated in dollars.

***

IN THE 30 years of its existence, the GTEB also underwent several changes to adapt to the times, so to speak, such as when an ex-teacher was in charge.

In fact, the GTEB took its form from three executive orders.

For sake of the paralegal of the action stars in the Senate, those were EO 537, EO 823, and EO 952.

In all those 30 years or so, the GTEB and the garments industry might have had misunderstandings, if not outright quarrels, particularly in the management of the so-called quota for garments exports.

The allocation given by the US government for Philippine garments exports, for instance, would sometimes just disappear into thin air, perhaps sold by somebody to some favored groups, or allotted to the relatives of politicos.

By and large, however, the GTEB has been effective in developing markets abroad for the local garments sector.

How about, you might say, the DFA? Well, its hands are already tied with some eight to nine million Filipinos working abroad.

***

ANYWAY, soon to be orphaned, the garments industry is searching for ways to have an organized effort to develop new markets, particularly for the small ones.

The big companies perhaps can take care of themselves, but the small ones should still need government help for things like trade concessions.

As everybody knows, except perhaps Malacañang, exports of garments has become a highly competitive field, since the US removed the quota system in accordance with the ITO.

It's every company for itself now. Because the business has become open season, nobody here is assured of buyers. You have to go out and seek them.

At the moment, as its strategy to create a market for our garments, the local industry this thing called "sector-specific preferential trade agreement."

In other words, the sector does not have to wait an eternity for the results of those endless trade talks encompassing everything under the sun, including skin trade.

They just work on one particular sector, which in their case is of course garments. This was the approach taken by our neighbor countries like Thailand and Singapore.

The United States and the European Community, for example, have granted trade concessions for garments to countries in Africa and the Nafta, plus South Africa. Recently, the US concluded similar arrangements with Jordan, Israel, Egypt and Singapore.

Look at that! Just take a look at that! Again - that's Singapore. The last time I checked, Singapore has a per capita income that's several lifetimes ahead of the Philippines.

And Singapore gets concessions from the US in a labor-intensive industry such as garments making, even if that island does not have enough workers.

Singapore has one little secret, and it is a well-funded lobby. From what I heard, the guys there paid some US groups about $1.5 million for the trade concession lobby.

In a way, the garments sector is saying that we still need GTEB to work at getting similar concessions, which the US gave to other countries in our region that are doing better than us, and they did not even suffer from US imperialism. Or something like that!

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Alexander Yu, ME 4
SmartGas (Bahama Realty and Development Corp.)

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Julie Alegrado, ME1
Almont Inland Resort

"Prior to entering ME, my business was run like a mom and pop sari sari store – no medium and long range planning, very, very few formalized processes, no goal setting, no measurements and basically just flowing on a day to day basis. The introduction of the concept of V-M-O-KRA-PI has totally overhauled the way my company is being operated. The company now has a clear over-riding vision, which is being shared and implemented with the employees as well as our customers. Doing the S-P-A-T-Res is my personal favorite. It has provided me with a real checklist on strategy implementation down to the nitty gritty of things, as well as who will do what and at what cost. An immediate result of laying out these strategies on paper is the realization that I cannot do it alone and the cost of missed opportunities far outweighs the cost of setting up a team to work on these projects. The result of S-P-A-T-Res is the hot hot hot RSCI Business Development Team."

Russ O. Alfonso, ME 4
RS Concepts, Inc.

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EQUIS ACCREDITED

Ayala Land ...

From page B1

"The Columns" through its subsidiary, Community Innovations Inc. (CII).

CII is a new ALI subsidiary focused on serving the property needs of young families, professionals and entrepreneurs.

Already on its third year of building low-, mid- and high-rise condominiums, houses and lots and townhomes that line up key areas of Makati's central business district and the city's outskirts, CII president Bobby Dy had said that sales of CII have been brisk this year, already breaching the P1-billion mark.

To continue with its growth record, Dy said CII was embarking on a P2-billion, two-tower condominium project dubbed "The Columns Legaspi Village", a sequel to its fast-selling project along Ayala Avenue.

Dy had said The Columns Legaspi Village is banking on good location since it is a block away from the posh Greenbelt and Glorietta malls from the corner of Amorsolo and Arnaiz Ave.

The Columns consists of two towers, 41 storeys each, and a total of 780 units sitting on a 3,023-sq.m. lot.

Legaspi Village is also a vital part of the central business district, with more than half or 140 of Makati City's 240 offices located in the village.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of November 7, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	1,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31.5	32	31	31.5	1,500,600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	56	57.5	56	57.5	1,746,500
China Banking Corp.	605	605	600	605	260
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.61	0.63	1,490,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	49.5	50	49	50	172,200
International Exch. Bank	19.5	19.5	19.5	19.5	10,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	27.5	27	27.5	865,700
Philippine National Bank	32	32.5	31	31	71,700
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14	14	14	14	700
Security Bank Corp.	30.5	31	30.5	30.5	39,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	29.5	30	29.5	30	67,900
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2890	2930	2890	2930	1,140
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	28,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2020	2030	2020	2025	1,540
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14.5	14.5	14.25	14.25	35,600
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.91	0.93	0.91	0.93	5,270,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	720	720	720	720	16,750
Ipeople Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.65	2.65	26,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1	2,449,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1735	1735	1700	1720	61,490
Ivantage Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	1,100,000
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.016	37,400,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14	14.25	14	14.25	500
Manila Electric Co. B	21.5	21.5	21.25	21.5	198,000
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.4	1,812,000
Petron Corp.	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.65	4,291,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.96	0.98	0.96	0.98	60,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	10	10	9.7	9.8	400,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.69	0.7	0.69	0.7	670,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.59	0.59	610,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.95	4.05	3.85	3.95	2,613,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	1,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	38.5	39	38	39	307,500
Pancake House Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	10,000
RFM Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	500,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	10,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64.5	65	16,200
San Miguel Corp. B	91.5	91.5	89.5	90	356,300
Universal Robina Corp.	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	13,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	10,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.007	0.008	0.007	0.008	3,000,000
Atok-Big Wedge.Inc. B	5	5	5	5	5,000
Ayala Corp.	307.5	310	307.5	310	212,140
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	120,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5	5	5	20,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	10	10	10	10	2,000
Alo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	2,400,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.28	2.3	2.28	2.3	2,248,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.8	0.81	0.8	0.81	410,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.4	9.5	9.3	9.5	100,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	35,340,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.04	1.1	1.04	1.1	30,330,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	120,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	200,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.26	0.28	0.26	0.27	12,250,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.2	3.25	3.2	3.25	719,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.06	1.06	808,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	44	45	44	45	1,218,200
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.7	691,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	5,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.4	1.4	2,491,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	50,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.33	10,480,000
Paxys Inc.	4.9	5	4.8	4.85	245,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.24	1.26	1.24	1.26	339,000
SM Investments Corp.	241	246	241	244	354,380
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.37	90,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	200,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.125	0.125	1,700,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	10,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	4	4	4	4	10,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	50,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.92	0.92	0.9	0.9	1,420,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	232,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	3,400,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	14.5	14.75	14.5	14.75	354,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	500
PLDT (10% Pref.) SerieS U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
PLDT 10% Pref Series BB	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,500
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.9	9	8.9	9	16,554,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	220,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.235	0.24	3,510,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	6,990,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.34	1.36	1,986,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.2	0.195	0.2	4,460,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	350,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	6	6	5.8	5.9	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.3	8.3	8.1	8.2	5,083,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.86	0.86	0.85	0.85	150,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.89	0.89	0.86	0.86	100,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	30,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.7	127,000
Benguet Corp. A	8	8	8	8	24,000
Benguet Corp. B	29	30	29	30	12,500
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.46	1.56	1.46	1.56	140,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.22	0.215	0.22	6,260,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.235	4,270,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.017	0.016	0.016	102,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.024	0.025	0.024	0.024	20,400,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	160,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.06	2,194,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.26	1.28	1.24	1.24	2,559,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26.5	27	26.5	26.5	220,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.23	170,000
OIL					
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	400,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	2,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	4.05	4.1	4	4.1	173,000

Shares close flat

From page B1

The market came off its lows on last minute support, having been down nearly one percent earlier.

The composite index lost 1.65 points to 2,030.05 after trading between 2,017.42 and 2,038.67. Volume was 557 million shares worth P909 million.

Losers led gainers 41 to 37, with 37 stocks unchanged.

"The market is really due for a technical correction. Most counters are overbought," said Astro del Castillo of First Grade Holdings.

The composite index gained nearly 6 percent in the past six sessions and dealers said the market had to consolidate following that rally.

"For now, it was only wise for any investor to cash in gains following the run-up but it should be a different story once corporate earnings start coming in," Del Castillo said.

Losses in Philippine Long Distance Telephone weighed on the main index. It shed P20 at P1,720 on profit-taking after it hit a record high on Thursday.

Analysts said the country's biggest telecommunications firm was expected to report today a record net profit for the nine months to September but its third-quarter results alone may show the impact of slowing growth in a maturing mobile phone market base.

Other gainers include Ayala Land, up 10 centavos to P9 while parent Ayala Corp. ended unchanged at P310.

Bank of the Philippine Islands rose P1.50 to P57.50 while Globe Telecom Inc. fell P5 to P720.

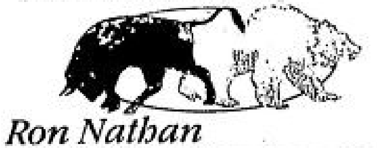
"B" shares of San Miguel, available to local and foreign investors, fell P2 to P90 while San Miguel "A," limited to Filipinos, ended unchanged at P65. *AFP*

CURRENCIES

November 7, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.845809	1.000000	54.6600
Japan	Yen	0.007153	0.008457	0.4623
United Kingdom	Pound	1.481096	1.751100	95.7151
Hongkong	Dollar	0.109098	0.128986	7.0504
Switzerland	Franc	0.647633	0.765697	41.8530
Canada	Dollar	0.715272	0.845666	46.2241
Singapore	Dollar	0.497213	0.587855	32.1322
Australia	Dollar	0.619549	0.732493	40.0381
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.245312	2.654632	145.1022
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.225543	0.266660	14.5756
Brunei	Dollar	0.495756	0.586132	32.0380
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.000100	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.020639	0.024402	1.3338
UAE	Dirham	0.230309	0.272294	14.8836
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.182300	64.6245
Argentina	Peso	0.283353	0.335008	18.3115
Brazil	Real	0.380036	0.449317	24.5597
Denmark	Kroner	0.133981	0.158406	8.6585
India	Rupee	0.018618	0.022012	1.2032
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.224026	0.264866	14.4776
Mexico	New Peso	0.078805	0.093171	5.0927
New Zealand	Dollar	0.577935	0.683293	37.3488
South Africa	Rand	0.126850	0.149975	8.1976
Korea	Won	0.000808	0.000955	0.0522
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025164	0.029751	1.6262

An Index-led rally

MR. BEARBULL



Ron Nathan

LAST YEAR, AT HALLOWEEN, we were at the Holiday Inn, Hong Kong. At exactly midnight, a specter appeared dressed in white. It looked around the bedroom, went into the living room, then the bathroom. Finally, it returned, nodded its head and vanished. I told the management next morning that the hotel was haunted but they said it was just the Holiday Inspector.

Three things happen when you get old. The first is that you lose your memory. I forgot the other two. Here is a funny story sent by a reader:

Miss Jones, the church organist was in her eighties and had never been married. One afternoon, the pastor called on her and was shown into her quaint living room. She invited him to sit down and gave him a cup of tea with pastorized milk. As he sat facing the old pump organ, he noticed a goldfish bowl sitting on top of it, filled with water. In the water, floated a condom.

The pastor tried to hide his curiosity but soon it got the better of him and he could no longer resist. "Miss Jones," he said, pointing to the bowl. "I wonder if you could tell me about this."

"Oh yes," she said, "Isn't it wonderful? I was walking down the street about 6 months ago and I found a small package on the ground. The directions said to place it on the organ, keep it wet, and it would prevent the spread of disease. And it really works! I haven't had a cold all winter."

* * *

LAST week, many brokers did not show up for work, thinking the market would be dead. They could not have been more wrong. In these two days, gross turnover tripled to P1.2 billion and the Phisix rose 71 points, blasting through the 2,000 level. There were two reasons for this remarkable increase in activity, particularly in the blue chips. The first was a no-brainer. The Supreme Court reaffirmed its decision on the VAT law and it became effective on November 1st. Foreigners were pleased because it had been delayed for months and many of them doubted that it would even be passed. An analyst at Macquarie Asia said, "There was some skepticism that the government would go through with the E-VAT. Investors have been encouraged by this turn of events." However, this was not the main reason for the sharp rise in the Phisix.

The real reason was that the PSE made unprecedented changes in the index. Normally, every few years, they remove the 3 worst performing stocks and replace them with 3 better quality stocks. This time around, they took out 5 stocks: PNB, GSMI, MUSX and ION (all poor performers) plus JGS, a good company but with a small float. They replaced them with BDO, SM, MWC (all IPOs), PX and PLTL. The latter is a surprise because its float is also small.

Around the world, there are thousands of Mutual Funds. These consist of 2 types: those which can invest in any stocks within the parameters of their prospectus, and index funds, which have to invest in exactly the same proportion as the index. The index-linked funds are popular because the Fund Managers have virtually nothing to think about so charges are low. This enables unit holders to invest relatively small amounts of money, yet spread the risk widely.

Any index-linked Fund, which invests in the Philippines or any Asian Fund that has a Filipino content, has to reorganize its portfolio to conform to the new index. This means that they have to rid themselves of the outgoing stocks and BUY the 5 quality blue chips now included. This is why SM jumped P25 in three days, PLTL broke out of its trading range, and PX, which I recommended for a different reason, had a sharp rise. The switching will take some time and there will be local profit taking, but generally speaking, these 5 stocks should do better than average for the rest of the year.

On Wednesday and Thursday, there was heavy foreign buying and this not only pushed up the Phisix but also caused the peso to appreciate to its best level in months. The decision of the Bangko Sentral to raise rates by a quarter point also helped support the currency, which for once, has been the best performer in the galaxy. The bank took into account the new FED rate of 4 percent. "The rate hike was expected," said Governor Tetangco. "Our next assessment will take this into account together with other related factors like liquidity growth and second round effects of higher oil prices and taxes on inflation. Tetangco said he is not ruling out the need for further increases in interest rates."

For those readers who would like to know the 30 stocks comprising the new index, they are: ABS, AC, AEV, ALI, BEL, BPC, BPI, GTL, DMC, EPCI, FLI, FPH, GLO, HLCM, ICT, JFC, LC, MBT, MEG, MER, MPI, PCOR, SMC, SMPH, TEL, plus newcomers: BDO, SM, MWC, PX and PLTL. Next April, there will be further changes in the Phisix to take into account not only capitalization but also the float. One stock certain to be included will be First Gen, whose prospectus should be announced soon so that it can trade early in December.

The dividend season is upon us and most results should be better than the 3rd quarter of 2004 but be careful because there is a ten-

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BIR seen achieving October collection target

Getting a big boost from large taxpayers unit's performance

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE said it likely met or even surpassed its P46.94-billion target for October, as the agency's large taxpayers service (LTS) unit already exceeded its tax collection goal.

"If the LTS performs well, there is a tendency for the whole BIR to meet its collection target. Since the LTS already exceeded its goal, there is a better chance that the BIR will exceed its goal for October," said Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares, who heads the LTS.

LTS, which collects taxes from the country's biggest corporations, accounts for more than 50 percent of the BIR's total collection.

Henares said the LTS was tasked to collect P24.75 billion for October. Preliminary data showed that the LTS already collected P25.035 billion, or P800 million higher than its target, she said.

The revenue official, however, could not give preliminary data on the BIR's total October collection but said the revenue agency was poised to meet its target.

The BIR was told by the Department of Finance not to disclose preliminary collection data due to the confusion it created when initial reports in September indicated that collection met or exceeded the target but the final report showed otherwise.

The excess in the LTS' collection in October eases the pressure on the BIR, which was still trying to address some P9.3 billion in cumulative shortfall for the first nine months of the year.

With the huge gap that the BIR still needed to cover, however, officials said it was doubtful that the agency could still meet its P547-billion target for the entire 2005. But they said the shortfall could still be reduced to a more tolerable margin.

Henares attributed the better-than-expected revenue-collection performance of the LTS to ongoing administrative programs like the Performance Measurement System. Under the program, LTS collectors are regularly evaluated based on a set of work objectives. Consistent failure to meet a collection goal could lead to dismissal from service.

"People know what is expected of them, and we have an objective basis for evaluating them," she said.

In an effort to plug tax leakages and bring down the revenue shortfall, BIR officer-in-charge Jose Mario Buñag issued a memorandum assigning concerned revenue officers to conduct a special audit of four industries—telecommunications, construction, manufacturing and logistics. This was prompted by reports companies belonging to these industries were claiming excessive VAT credits.

Resolution of legal issues involving NDMC urged

THE BIDDING FOR NORTH DAVAO MINING Corp. may have to wait until questions on the legality of its mining claims in Compostela Valley and their overlap with those of Apex Mining Corp. are settled.

Canada's Crew Group, which had just bought Apex, said in a statement that the case, while pending with the Bureau of Mines and Geo-sciences regional arbitration panel since 1998, has not yet even gone into the merits and would definitely take years to resolve.

Every ruling by the panel can be appealed by to the Mines Adjudication Board, then to the Court of Appeals, and eventually to the Supreme Court.

This was what happened to an interlocutory order issued by the panel in 2000 which was finally settled by the Supreme Court only early this year. This order simply defined areas where there was no conflict between the claims of Apex and NDMC.

But where there is conflict, the case becomes a complicated legal mess with a lot of details to be presented going all the way back to the mid-60s through the martial law years when NDMC was still controlled by the Elizaldes. Apex is alleging that NDMC's mining claims are illegal and therefore null and void from the beginning.

"It is unfortunate that these legal questions stand in the way of the bidding for NDMC. Apex would like to see the case resolved soonest but will definitely exert its utmost to protect its interest," the statement added.

The company has just been bought by Crew Gold Corp. of Canada and its local affiliate, Mapula Creek Gold Corp. Crew Gold is in the process of expanding its presence internationally. The turnover of Apex to Crew is currently going on. Crew's new management team is now gearing up for full-scale operations by next year.

Bill on tax perks seen to boost ecozone businesses

THE BASES CONVERSION DEVELOPMENT Authority said a Senate bill providing tax amnesty and incentives to locators in special economic zones in Clark, John Hay and Poro Point would boost investments in these areas.

BCDA president Narciso Abaya said the quick passage of the bill, which was approved by the Senate committee on government corporations and public estates, would address the concern of all investors in the economic zones regarding the continued viability of their business enterprises.

Abaya also said the moves would ensure the continued availability of employment opportunities for thousands of people depending on the ecozone businesses for a living.

He said more local and foreign investors would be encouraged to put up their businesses in those ecozones.

Clark, John Hay and Poro Point ecozones have a total of 447 locators providing jobs to 37,500 people.

In the proposed bill, affected locators in the three ecozones may avail themselves of the amnesty by paying an amnesty tax rate of one peso within one year after the law takes effect. They will then have to pay only 5 percent of their gross income.

BCDA cited the inclusion of critical provisions in the bill reported out by the committee chaired by Sen. Richard Gordon. The bill, which would amend Republic Act (RA) 7227, makes available all the incentives under the Special Economic Zone Act of 1995 to businesses in other special economic zones created under RA 7227.

DTI CAMPAIGN VS UNCERTIFIED GOODS. Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila (center), Undersecretary for Consumer Welfare Zenaida C. Maglaya (right) and deputy Manila Mayor Don Bagatsing (left) inspect a truck-load of uncertified products including Christmas lights, lighters, compact fluorescent lamps, electrical sockets, flat irons and extension cords from eight stalls in Divisoria Mall recently. The DTI is waging a vigorous campaign against unscrupulous businesses that are robbing Filipino consumers of their hard-earned money and compromising their safety by selling unsafe, uncertified and substandard products. The eight establishments were slapped with administrative charges for violating Republic Act No. 4109 or the Standards Law, and Section 6 of Department Administrative Order (DAO) 2: 2002, which prohibits the sale of critical products that are untested by the BPS.

Moody's upgrades credit ratings of 4 local companies

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE DEBT RATINGS OF PHILIPpine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Globe Telecom Inc. have been upgraded by Standard & Poor's.

Realizing that the telecom giants are well insulated from the political uncertainties in the country, S&P revised its ratings on PLDT and Globe to BB plus with a stable outlook from BB negative with a negative outlook. PLDT has about $2 billion in debts while Globe has about $900 million.

San Miguel Corp's rating improved to BB with a negative outlook from BB minus with a negative outlook, That of Universal Robina Corp. was set at BB with a stable outlook, from BB minus with a negative outlook.

All four are now rated above the sovereign debts, which remained at BB negative with a negative outlook.

A rating upgrade tends to bring down the cost of the rated firm's borrowing as it indicated lower risks, giving investors less reason to demand a higher return for their placements.

A rating upgrade will benefit Globe, which is refinancing millions of dollars in debt. PLDT, however, said it would not tap new borrowings but would continue paying down obligations. San Miguel and URC have indicated plans to tap the debt market for their expansion.

"These entities tend to demonstrate modest leverage, strong free cash flow generation and competitive business profiles," S&P said, referring to the 25 companies across Asia and Latin America that received a ratings boost.

S&P said the political prospects in the Philippines or elsewhere did not cloud the prospects of companies whose ratings have improved in accessing credit.

"This means that non-sovereign entities that are considered well insulated from direct and indirect sovereign risks may achieve a foreign currency rating that exceeds the sovereign foreign currency rating," said the debt watcher in a statement.

PLDT, Globe, SMC and URC were among the 10 Asian firms that got ratings upgrade. S&P also upgraded the ratings of 15 companies in Latin America.

Globe's upgrade was surprising considering that it was one of those that S&P had earlier named in its list of firms for potential downgrades this quarter. The two others are the sovereign debts and Manila Electric Co.

Moody's Investors Service raised in July this year Globe's debt rating to Ba2 from Ba3, recognizing that Singapore Telecom, a stakeholder of the phone giant, could help boost Globe's capacity to settle its debts. Ayala Corp. is another major stockholder of Globe.

Moody's said last month it might do the same to PLDT's $1.3 billion worth of debts by early 2006 in line with the company's improving financial profile.

MEDIUM-TERM SOLUTION

₱3.3-B Cebu-Negros interconnection project OKd

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEvelopment Authority-Investment Coordination Committee (Neda-ICC) has approved National Transmission Corp.'s (Transco) P3.3-billion Cebu-Negros interconnection project, paving the way for the awarding of the contract to the winning bidders.

Transco president and chief executive Alan Ortiz said two contractors would be working on the project: Japan's Kanematsu Corp. for the submarine cables and China's Xian Electric for the overhead lines and substation.

The signing of the contracts between Transco and the contractors should take place soon as all necessary approvals for the project had already been secured.

The project forms part of Transco's Cebu-Negros-Panay (CNP) interconnection and capacity uprating project, which involves the doubling of the current 100-megawatt (MW) capacity of the Cebu-Negros and Negros-Panay lines to transmit power between the Visayas islands.

The completion of the entire CNP project will pave the way for the increased use of indigenous power from geothermal energy-endowed Leyte and offer a medium-term solution to the looming power crisis in the Visayas.

The Cebu-Negros component involves the installation of a 109-kilometer, 138-kilovolt (kV) overhead transmission line and a 17.8-km sub-sea cable connecting Transco's Santander substation in Cebu and the Amlan substation in Negros Oriental.

This component, originally priced at P3.7 billion, was scaled down to only P3.3 billion by eliminating one building, some vehicles and the 69-kV Suba-Alcoy line from the project plan, Ortiz said.

While already prepared to award the contracts for the Cebu-Negros project, he said Transco was still awaiting the Neda-ICC approval for the Negros-Panay component of the CNP project.

Upon the issuance of the Neda-ICC approval, he said the project should be placed on the auction block by the first quarter of next year. The project is expected to be completed between 2007 and 2008.

The Negros-Panay project will double the transfer capacity of the existing 18.8-km sub-sea cable from 100 MW to 200 MW.

This component of the CNP project had been deferred due to budgetary constraints.

The approval of an increase in Transco's 2006-2010 capital expenditure budget to $850 million from only $500 million, however, enabled the state firm to prioritize the project.

Mr. Bearbull

From page B3

dency for stocks to run up ahead of results and then react on profit taking even if they are up to expectations. We are witnessing this phenomenon in Wall Street.

In the U.S., the FED is still concerned with inflation, which has risen from 2.4 percent to 2.8 percent and the latest figures show an 8-cent an hour increase, equivalent to 6 percent a year. Only 56,000 new jobs were created but this is partly attributable to hurricane Katrina. GDP for the 3rd quarter rose from 3.3 percent to an unexpected 3.8 percent. So the economy remains in good shape and the FED will continue to increase rates further. Greenspan will be retiring next January but his successor said that there would be no change in policy.

The World Bank raised its economic growth forecast from 6 percent to 6.2 percent, citing faster-than-expected expansion in China. Its economy is expected to grow at 9.3 percent, 1 percent higher than estimated. South Korea was cut from 4.2 percent to 3.8 percent, and Thailand from 5.2 percent to 4.2 percent. Next year, China is expected to slow down modestly to 8.7 percent and the Philippines to remain at 5 percent.

One of the results of changing the index has been to mess up my degree of risk indicator. This has given 19 accurate predictions, all to within one day, usually in advance. Fortunately, the individual stocks are not affected but I have moved to a more tabulated system. This now shows daily, the closing price, change, risk factor and recent support and resistance levels on all the active stocks, usually about 25 to 30. This makes it easier to make decisions on when to BUY and SELL. It also shows in detail the stocks that foreign brokers are buying and selling.

The latest improvement is to add every week, the 1-year price targets of all the blue chips covered by the major foreign brokers. This is particularly useful because it is they who control the market. So if you BUY those stocks whose price targets are well above the market, this ensures that you will be buying the stocks, which are rated as having the greatest potential for capital appreciation over the next 12 months.

mrbearbull@hotmail.com

Forex reserves slip to $18.09B in Oct.

From page B1

Short-term debt based on residual maturity pertains to outstanding short-term external debt on original maturity plus principal payments on medium- and long-term loans of the public and private sectors falling due within the next 12 months.

Net international reserves, inclusive of revaluation of reserve assets and reserve-related liabilities, declined to $17.25 billion from $17.7 billion a month ago.

The BSP aims to further build up its GIR to at least $18.65 billion by next year despite pressures from maturing debts and a widening trade gap.

Despite a rising trade deficit partly due to the skyrocketing oil import bill, the BSP expects the country to continue benefiting from strong foreign exchange flows particularly from the remittances of overseas Filipino workers.

Given the build-up in the GIR level projected for next year, the BSP expects its balance of payments (BOP) and current account to remain in a surplus.

The BOP measures the foreign exchange transactions between the economy and the rest of the world. Its major components are the current account and the capital and financial account.

T-bill rates decline

From page B1

cent starting January 2006. The law is estimated to generate P81.4 billion in additional revenues annually for the government.

Cruz said the market remained highly liquid, especially because of the maturing government securities, which banks usually reinvest in government securities. He said there were about P18.8 billion in maturing treasury bills in the last two weeks, but that the government offered a total of only P4.5 billion worth of debt paper.

"This liquidity augurs well for the auction outlook for the rest of the year," Cruz said.

He added that the decision of the Treasury to cancel some of the last few auctions for treasury bonds this year further beefed up liquidity, and would force a continued decline in interest rates.

Saying the national government is awash with cash, the Treasury said it was studying the possibility of canceling treasury bill auctions slated for December.

AdBoard reaches out to schools for consumer advocacy

THE OUTSPOKEN YOUTH MUST BE heard and at the same time educated about consumer respect through responsible advertising. The Advertising Board of the Philippines (AdBoard) believes that the future of the industry relies heavily on what students think and say about this advocacy, thus prompting the advertising industry's self-regulation body to conduct Resurgence of Responsibility in Advertising: 2005 AdBoard School Symposium.

The series of school symposia is one of the essential approaches being utilized by AdBoard in implementing its ongoing advocacy called Paggalang sa Mamimili (Respect to Consumers). During the presentations, AdBoard chair Raul Alvarez repeatedly stressed on staying truthful to the consumer whenever and wherever advertising is involved. "You do not insult the consumers' intelligence, you do not mislead, you give them absolute truth in a creative way. You inform the consumer well so that they may make a wise decision," says chair Alvarez.

Aside from chair Alvarez, AdBoard vice chair Matec Villanueva and AdBoard executive director Oscar Valenzuela also spearheaded the discussions that included the overview of AdBoard and self-regulation, the Advertising Content Regulation Committee (ACRC), the Trade Practice and Conduct Committee (TPCC), the Advertising Code of Ethics, the advocacy campaign, the Araw Values Awards, and the forthcoming 19th Philippine Advertising Congress.

Interesting exchange of ideas transpired after every session, prompting AdBoard to believe that the students have at least found a venue to air their thoughts and concerns regarding the state of advertising from the point of view of the Filipino consumer. To further encourage the students to continue with their thirst for knowledge on the subject, AdBoard gave the students copies of the AdBoard Primer and the AdBeat (AdBoard's official newsletter).

The AdBoard school symposia were organized in coordination with the Philippine Junior Marketing Association (PJMA), led by Archie Crisologo (JMA-PUP), Christian Barros (JMA-CSB), Randy Herrera (JMA-San Beda), and Christian Quijano (JMA-PLM).

The symposia, which began in Sept. 13, were held in four clusters of schools in Metro Manila with participation from 16 schools. The schools included in the tour were the Polytechnic University of the Philippines , De La Salle College of St. Benilde, De La Salle University, UP Manila, St. Scholastica, Assumption College, San Beda College, Centro Escolar University, College of the Holy Spirit, Chang Kai Shek, San Sebastian College, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, Lyceum of the Philippines, Letran College, and Adamson University.

AdBoard is positive that activities like this will encourage more young people - the young consumers and possibly future advertising practitioners - to be pro-active in their acquired knowledge about the advertising industry.

INQUIRER SUPPORTS AD CONGRESS

The Philippine Daily Inquirer has officially confirmed its participation to sponsor the 19th Philippine Advertising Congress during the sponsors' MOA signing Oct. 14 at the McCann-Erickson headquarters in Makati City. Present during the event were (from left) Dodo Reyes, Globe Telecom advertising and media head and 19th PAC ways and means committee member, Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, Inquirer president, and Meryl Schlachterman, 19th PAC chair. Inquirer will be hosting the dinner of the biggest event of the congress, the Araw Awards. The 19th Philippine Advertising Congress will be held at Waterfront Hotel in Lahug, Cebu City from Nov. 16 to 19. For more details, log on to www.philadcongress.com.

CDO promo advocates entrepreneurship

A 30-YEAR OLD FORMER GOVERNMENT EMployee has won the first of the 15 multicabs being given away by CDO-Foodsphere Inc to the Filipino consumers as a part of its "CDO Sari-Saring Delata Promo, Pakiskis at Manalo ng Sari-Sari Cab."

The consumer promo is a five-month campaign designed to bring the company's canned meat products to more Filipino households and support the government's livelihood enhancement program.

Edwin de Leon of Barangay Bagbag in Novaliches, Quezon City said he did not expect that he would win a multicab in the latest promotion of the canned meat manufacturer.

The Multicab is a popular Cebuano invention that has gained popularity in the provinces as an efficient means of transportation, combining the flexibility of a tricycle and the carrying capacity of a jeepney.

On September 25, de Leon and his wife Rosalina bought a pack of CDO Sari-Sari De Lata from a supermarket in Quezon City. Each pack contains four CDO canned products, namely, karne norte, chunkisado, meat loaf, and liver spread.

De Leon said that upon reaching home, their eldest daughter opened the promo pack and immediately grabbed the "scratch and win" card. They could not believe their luck when three identical images, showed from scratching the card, would entitle them to a highly functional multicab. He said that it was not until the following day that they learned of their prize from a phone inquiry to the CDO office.

"Of course, I was surprised and felt very happy," de Leon said in bilingual. "A week after, CDO executives personally delivered the multicab to my home."

"I will use the multicab for a buy-and sell business," said the first winner of the said promo.

De Leon's fortune is exactly the purpose of CDO's latest promo - to help hardworking and enterprising people to further enhance and grow their businesses and enrich their lives.

2005 Research Conference at PICC: Media Ethics

IT IS "THE CALL OF THE HOUR" confronting Philippine society. In view of the alleged involvement of a TV host in the release of a suspected terrorist, the public seems to demand ethical behavior and social responsibility in the practice of mass media and public communications.

La Consolation College Manila, through the Jaime Cardinal Sin Center for Social Responsibility and Applied Ethics (CSRAE), will hold the 2005 Research Conference on the "Social Responsibility and Ethics in Mass Media, IT, and Communications" on Nov. 11, at the Philippine International Convention Center, Manila.

Speakers include Bishop Teodoro Bacani, D.D. ("principles of information ethics"), Philippine Daily Inquirer chair Marixi Prieto (on "business and information ethics), former CHED Chair Dr. Ester Garcia ("integration of ethics in the IT curriculum"), and DLSU Graduate School of Business dean Philip E. Juico ("social responsibility of mass media").

Distinguished reactors invited are Associate Justice Artemio Panganiban of the Supreme Court, former Finance Undersecretary Dr. Ramon Katigbak, Jr., former DepEd Secretary Bro. Andrew Gonzalez, FSC, and professor Elfren S. Cruz.

University and college administrators, senior faculty, business and media executives will gather to come up with some practical resolutions to do something positive about the problems of cyber porno using our youth, trial by publicity, deceitful and misleading advertising, computer hacking, wire tapping, character assassination in media, and other ethical accountability issues in mass media, IT, and business.

To honor his memory, the center is named after the late Archbishop of Manila, who undoubtedly was a great Filipino leader and communicator. E-mail to csrae.lccm@gmail.com or telefax to 313-0602 for further information about the conference.

BEST BRITISH BUSINESSES IN RP TO HOLD UK SHOW

The British Embassy in partnership with Standard Chartered Bank will be holding the UK Show the first-ever British-focused tradeshow in Manila at the Intercontinental Hotel from Nov. 10 to 12. The UK Show, featuring 37 companies, highlights the diversity and excellence of an impressively wide range of British goods, services and investments available in the Philippines today. The UK Show will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Photo shows British Ambassador Peter Beckingham shaking hands with Eugene Ellis, Standard Chartered Bank chief executive officer during the signing of the UK Show partnership agreement. Looking on are Raj Chandrashekhar, Standard Chartered Bank chief financial officer and John Chick, UK Trade and Investment Director.

Making business easier for SMEs

ASIATRUST BANK CELEBRATED its forty-fifth anniversary last October with a renewed sense of purpose. Asiatrust president and CEO Dionisio Ong expressed it well saying, "The Bank has been around a long time. We catered to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) long before it was the fad to do so. We have a good history but we have always been conscious of the fact that Asiatrust should constantly reinvent itself to be able to serve its customers in the best possible ways. We will keep up with the needs and demands of the times, improving and changing in a fast changing world", he said.

Its continuing thrust is to facilitate the growth and development of SMEs. Ong underscored the importance of SMEs as the engine of economic growth. He said that Asiatrust fully supports the government in its objective of creating six million jobs in six years through the development of SMEs. He also mentioned that the biggest problem facing SMEs in Asia, and most especially the Philippines, is the limited access to financing. This is because of the lack of information on SMEs and the banks' perceived view that there is higher risk in lending to SMEs.

He added that SMEs are discouraged from borrowing from banks because of the high loan floor set by banks, strict collateral requirements, long processing time and high interest rates. On the part of SMEs, it is imperative that they have preparation and planning, and that they should be able to explain the whats, whys and hows of their intended business, otherwise it will be difficult for them to be accepted by a bank for financing.

Taking all these problems into consideration, Asiatrust has eliminated a lot of constraints and greatly improved SMEs ability to get bank loans. It has simplified loan applications and streamlined its lending processes to effectively and efficiently address both SME needs and the bank's internal risk management criteria.

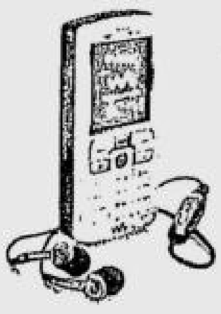
Asiatrust has likewise developed innovative loan and deposit products to address the varying needs of SMEs in the different sectors. It has also upped its "Enabling Services" through its SME helpdesk where SMEs are assisted in business and financial planning and are invited to undergo special training programs. Through its Cash Management Solutions, SMEs are enabled to manage their cash flow better.

"For me, the solution to the country's problem is not politics or political systems, it is providing an environment where entrepreneurs can grow. This means having a level playing field, with fair access to knowledge, skills, technology, financing and capital. This also entails creating more "enabling services", giving incentives to educational or training institutions, NGO's, government agencies, private business entities, banks; and encouraging them to make these "enabling services" accessible to all entrepreneurs, even young students who are potential entrepreneurs," stated Ong.

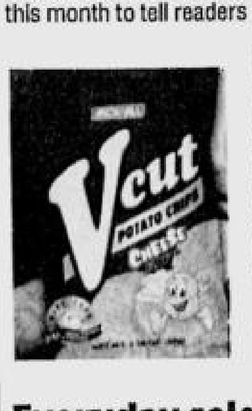
He also lauded the move by BSP to liberalize branches for all banks in certain areas. This would not only improve the country's savings rate (which according to a study by ADB is one of the lowest in Asia at 20 percent) but it will also allow banks like Asiatrust to help more entrepreneurs through its "Enabling services". "For each entrepreneur we develop, we can generate around 10 new jobs. This is real "development" of the country and its people - teaching our people how to fish rather than just handing out the fish. This is the only way our development effort can be sustainable," he concluded.

Product FILES

Sony Ericsson tops awards from Mobile Choice UK



SONY ERICSSON HAS EMERGED AS A BIG WINner in the Mobile Choice Consumer Awards 2005 of Britain's leading mobile industry magazine. In a glitzy awarding ceremony held in London, Sony Ericsson bested the competition in three categories. The Sony Ericsson W800i Walkman phone, the first product to combine a mobile phone, a Walkman-quality digital music player; and a 2-megapixel camera, won for Best Music Phone. The W800i is the first in a family of Walkman branded mobile phones carrying a brand heritage of superior music quality. The Best 3G Phone went to Sony Ericsson V800, a clamshell camera phone designed exclusively for European network operator Vodafone. The Sony Ericsson V800 has a 1.3 megapixel camera and a big, high-resolution screen. It can access 3G services all around the world and is sold in Europe and Japan. The V800 was previously awarded Best 3G Handset by the GSM Association. Sony Ericsson also triumphed with the Manufacturer of the Year award, a tribute to the company's fast-growing mobile product portfolio. Mobile Choice UK is releasing a special issue with a new design this month to tell readers more about this year's winners.



New Jack 'n Jill Vcut Cheese

NOW, YOU CAN GET THE MOUTH-WATERING flavor of real cheese with the tasty crunch of ridge-cut potatoes in Vcut Cheese - an exciting new snack from Jack 'n Jill that will surely be an all-time favorite. Vcut Cheese combines the distinctive ridge-cut texture that Vcut is known for, with the authentic, creamy flavor of real cheese. It's made extra crispy and extra cheesy, for that well-loved Jack 'n Jill taste. Best of all, it's made from 100 percent natural potatoes.

Everyday celebrations with Payless

PAYLESS OFFERS CELEBRATION in an instant, with its new sumptuous Payless Fiesta Bihon Chicken Guisado - the traditional goodness of pancit bihon conveniently packaged for easy preparation. Made with high-quality bihon and packed with the choicest ingredients, Payless Fiesta Instant Bihon Chicken Guisado is really "OK Sarap," as it has that authentic and delicious home-made taste of bihon guisado. It's the perfect new addition to your meals or an ideal treat for merienda and midnight snack as this can be prepared in just a few minutes. Now available in supermarkets and groceries nationwide

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Automatic Centre unveils 'G4' to the public

AUTOMATIC CENTRE, THE COUNTY'S PIONEER IN appliance and electronics retailing, unveils Automatic Centre G4 a totally new and exciting store concept for the reopening of its outlet in Glorietta 4 at the Ayala Center in Makati. Automatic Centre G4 is all about the hottest segments in consumer electronics today: flat screen TVs, digital cameras, mp3 players and mobile phones. Automatic Centre vows that G4 will be "an experience like no other!" You have to personally "See it… Hear it… Catch it…" to learn that its truly an understatement. Doors open Nov. 9. Automatic Centre G4 is located at the 3rd level of Glorietta 4, Ayala Centre, Makati City. Telephone numbers 729-6450 up to 52.

PSLIS holds seminar-workshop

THE PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF LIBRARIANS AND INFORMATION SPECIALISTS will hold a seminar-workshop on "Cataloguing and Indexing Update: An achievement workshop on Dec. 1 to 3, at Microtel Inn and Suites, Engineer's Hill, Upper Session Road, Baguio City near Victory Liner Terminal. The workshop is geared towards updating and reinforcing the knowledge and skills of the participants on cataloguing and indexing of various information resources. For reservation/inquiries call Vangie 523-8687-88; Lyn (telefax) 724-1994; Dory 527-8351 local 206; or text 0917-8664357; 0919-5180128; 09197727678.

The Agora Awards at the Shangri-la

THE AGORA AWARDS IS SET TO UNVEIL THE MOST OUTSTANDING MARketing practitioners on Nov. 10, at the Shangri-la Manila, Rizal Ballroom. This year's Awards Night promises to continue the Agora's long standing tradition of celebrating marketing excellence. Now in its 26th year, the theme for this year's Agora is "World-Class Excellence in Philippine Marketing". This time around, the Agora Awards aims to recognize Filipino marketing practitioners who have achieved greater heights for their respective businesses especially considering the shift to a globally competitive market. In other words, these individuals are living evidence to the claim that the Filipino is indeed world class.

Virgin Café now under new management

VIRGIN CAFÉ IS NOW UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT WITH YASUKI OF VIRGIN Dreams Live Entertainment Inc in cooperation with XAX Music Entertainment under Paulo Kurosawa starting this month. With a new owner comes the A-line list of performers this November at Virgin Café. Freestyle performs on Nov. 15 back to back with 604. Kyla alternating with Escape are slated on Nov. 26. Rage Band takes center stage on Nov. 10. Nyoy Volante with his new band is set on Nov. 17. REtroSPECT is a Friday attraction on Nov. 18. The Company performs on Nov. 11. Catch Top Suzara of Freestyle fame as he performs with his new band on Nov. 12 and 19. Akafellas and 604 are slated Nov. 22. Visit Virgin Café at Tomas Morato corner Madrinan Streets, Quezon City or call 811-0725 for more inquiries.

'MCS '80 Kitakits at 25'

THE MALATE CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOY'S AND GIRL'S HIGH SCHOOL DEpartment Batch 1980 will be having their Silver Alumni Reunion titled – "MCS '80 Kitakits at 25" on Nov. 26, Saturday, 5 p.m., at RJ Bistro, Jupiter St., Bel Air, Makati City. For details, please contact lawyer Marlon R. Gonzales at 939-10-22/687-3192 or Cristina (Nina) Serrano at 818-5855

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PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

MARA PAWNSHOP BR of 2230 M. Roxas St. Sta Ana Manila Auction Sale on Nov. 14, 2005 Mon. at 2:30 in the afternoon. Respectively, June 13-. July 14, 2005 SONS of J. LANUZA, Auctioneer. (PDI - Nov. 08, 2005)

MARA PAWNSHOP
I, II, III, IV and Comembo Br. of Makati City. AUCTION SALE on NOV. 14, 2005, Mon. at 10.30, 11.00, 12.30, and 1:30 and 8.30 in the morning and on the afternoon, Respectively June 13-July. 14, 2005.
Sons of J. Lanuza Auctioneer

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1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the projects as stated below:

ITB No.	Item / Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2005-317	1 lot Supply, Delivery and Installation of Systems Furniture at LANDBANK West Avenue Office Building	P 5,218,000.00	LBP Funds
2005-320	1 lot Supply of Technical Supervision, Labor, Materials, Tools and Equipment for the Dismantling of existing dilapidated steel matting and angular steel frames to be replaced/installed with new stainless steel matting, frames and anchor bolts, etc. (as air vents of cooling tower) located at Helipad of LANDBANK Plaza Headquarters, Malate, Manila.	2,450,000.00	LBP Funds

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Bidding for the above requirements are scheduled on November 30, 2005 at 1:00 PM and pertinent Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Division of the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, **upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 for each ITB.**

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on **November 17, 2005** at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to **Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract** shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of **RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).**

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Bank.

COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS

(PDI - Nov. 8 & 15, 2005)

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

P. O. Box 789, Manila, Philippines
6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines
Tel. 632 4306; 632 4231; 632 4444; Fax No. 636 2577
Email: psantiago@adb.org, cjpanganiban@adb.org or cpsoriano@adb.org

INVITATION to PRE-QUALIFY for CONTRACT No. ADB/OAS-2005/046 (PROVISION of PHOTOCOPY OPERATION and BINDERY SERVICES)

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB), a multilateral development finance institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, invites experienced interested companies to apply for pre-qualification required in subsequent bidding exercise for the provision of photocopy and bindery services at the premises of ADB Headquarters (hereinafter referred to as "Services").
2. It is expected that the Invitation to Bid for the bidding exercise will be issued no later than the fourth quarter of 2005.
3. Prequalification is open to firms from eligible member countries of ADB.
4. Interested eligible applicants may request further information by calling, writing or faxing, the Procurement and Contracts Administration Section, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Asian Development Bank at the contact address specified above starting from **9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** during any working day.
5. The Contractor shall provide the number of fully trained personnel, including supervisory staff, required for photocopy and bindery services. The scope of services is provided in detail in the Work Performance Statement to be given to interested applicants.
6. The Prequalification Documents may be obtained from the Procurement and Contracts Administration Section, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Room 1630 South, at the above address, from **7 to 11 November 2005** on any working day **(9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)** or call 632 4306 or 632 4231; fax numbers 636 2577 or 631 6899, email address: cpsoriano@adb.org.
7. Applicants will be required to submit two copies (marked "Original" and "Copy") of applications for pre-qualification each in a sealed envelope, which must be delivered either by hand or by registered mail addressed to the attention of the **Head, Procurement and Contracts Administration Section, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Room 1636S,** Asian Development Bank, 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, Philippines, **not later than 10:00 a.m., 23 November 2005**, and be clearly marked **"Application to Pre-qualify for Photocopy Operation and Bindery Services at ADB Headquarters".**
8. Only prequalified bidders shall be invited to participate in the bidding exercise to be conducted by ADB.
9. This invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation of prequalification documents shall be borne solely by the applicant. ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications for prequalification.

Chairperson
Institutional Procurement Committee
Office of Administrative Services

Asian Development Bank ADB
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(PDI-November 7 & 8, 2005)

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(PDI - Nov 8, 2005)

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TODAY, NOVEMBER 8TH, 2005, AT NATIONAL CATHEDRAL
OF THE HOLY CHILD, TAFT AVENUE, MANILA.
PLEASE SAY A PRAYER
FOR THE ETERNAL REPOSE OF HIS SOUL.
ROSETTE, VENG, GRACE AND TENG

"Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him." **Jn 14:23**

ANGELICA ANTONIO VDA. DE PAGDANGANAN

(widow of **GONZALO P. PAGDANGANAN, JR.**)

Peacefully joined her Creator on November 6, 2005 at the age of 80.

Her loving children, **Chito & Alice, Peewee & Myra, Dong & Jove, Edith, Monet & Liza, Vic & Emie, Gil John & Pat**, grandchildren **Adrian, Zarina, Renchie, Rhona, Mark, Joann, Patrick, Pam, Pia, Chino, Martin**, great grandchild **Keanan**, brothers & sisters and in-laws **Clody & Carmen, Letty & Itoy** (+), **Lita** (+), **Leovigildo & Belen, Mari Paz, Rory & Erning, Alex & Connie, Philip** (+) & **Sonya** (+) & relatives request the pious readers to pray for her eternal rest and everlasting happiness.

Her remains lie in state at the Don Bosco Chapel, Arnaiz Ave., Makati City.

Interment will be on Saturday, November 12, 2005 at 8:00 AM
at the Manila South Cemetery.

DEATH NOTICE

Jaime R. Natividad

Died on November 4, 2005
at the age of 61.

His body lies in state at their family residence in Villa Monteverde, Marilao, Bulacan.

Interment will be
tomorrow, November 8, 2005
at North Cemetery, Manila.

"For God
so loved the world,
that He gave His
only begotten Son,
that whoever
believes in Him
shall not perish but
have everlasting
life."
John 3:16

ATTY. ABUNDIO C. VILLAR

OF BACACAY, ALBAY & CALOOCAN CITY

Peacefully joined his beloved wife ***FLORA S. VILLAR*** (†)
in the home of our Lord.

His loving children: **Alma and Doming Legaspi, Amante and Doris**; grandchildren: **Ej & Joey; James, Christopher and Nicole** & other relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, November 9, 2005,
after the 9:00 a.m. Mass
at the Eternal Gardens Memorial Park.

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
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NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF VIEWING	INTERMENT/CREMATION DATE & TIME	INTERMENT/CREMATION PLACE
Atty. Gil A. Obsequio	Chapel C-15, Q.C.	11/11/05; 9:00 a.m.	Paz Crematory
Romeo Ferranco	Chapel K, Q.C.	to be announced	La Loma Cemetery
Francisco Santos	Chapel C-14, Q.C.	11/09/05; 12:30 p.m.	Paz Crematory

---

LOURDES MORALES

Peacefully joined her Creator
on October 27, 2005
Former National Supervisor, Bureau
of Public Schools of Laoag City
and 2079 Madrillon Rd., Viena, Virginia 221822
Family and friends request your prayers
for the eternal repose of her soul

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

MARIA PURUGGANAN ROA

thank all of you who shared in our
grief and comforted us with your
flowers, your prayers and
your presence.

FR. JOHN J. PHELAN, S.J.

was called home to the Lord on
Sunday, 6 November 2005.

Wake : Oratory of St. Ignatius at Loyola House of Studies, Ateneo de Manila University Campus, Loyola Heights, Quezon City
Mass will be celebrated every evening at 8:00 P.M.
Funeral Mass : at 8:00 AM on Wednesday, 9 November in the Oratory of St. Ignatius, Loyola House of Studies
Interment : Sacred Heart Novitiate Cemetery, Novaliches, Q.C., immediately after the Funeral Mass.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF HIS SOUL.

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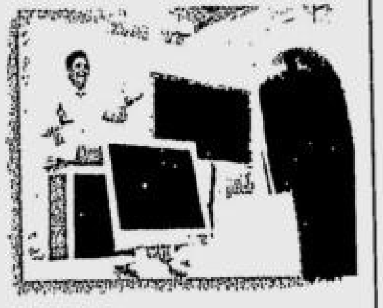

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Relay for Life 2006

ONCE AGAIN, THE PHILIPPINE Cancer Society (PCS) will conduct the annual "Relay for Life" (RFL), a special event for cancer survivors and victims along with their families and friends, on Feb. 17- 18, 2006 at Amorato Stadium, Roces Ave., Quezon City.

Organized by the PCS in cooperation with the American Cancer Society (ACS), Relay for Life is a unique and fun way to raise funds for cancer and to proliferate cancer awareness in the country. Quezon City mayor Sonny "SB" Belmonte, Jr. spearheads the event as Chairman of RFL 2006, and Kose L. Cuisia, Jr. as co-chairman.

RFL is an 18-hour overnight camp-out activity where teams composed of 8 to 15 people are asked to raise funds while taking turns walking or jogging around track, camping out, and doing fun-filled activities. An 18-hour non-stop onstage entertainment, fun games and exciting activities will also be available to entertain the relayers.

RFL is a signature activity of the ACS; it has raised over a billion dollars in 3,300 sites across the United States. The Philippines will be the second country in Asia to hold this activity.

The much-awaited RFL 2006 is expected to be more exciting, entertaining, fun-filled, and memorable. An endless roster of activities awaits participants, such as survivorship activities, luminaria, exhibits, fundraising gimmicks, games and many more!

Most importantly, RFL is a great opportunity to share information and experiences among participating cancer patients, survivors and their families, cancer support groups, and the rest of the community.

Join the fun and celebrate life! Everybody is invited! We call on students, clubs, companies, organizations, members of the medical community and volunteers to take part in the Relay for Life 2006. Please call Philippine Cancer Society at 734-2126 or 734-2128, or email us at pcsi@philcancer.com or visit our website at www.philcancer.com.

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION PNOC
Energy Complex, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel No. 893-1320, Local 5281

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND RE-BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

	Approved Budget
Close Circuit TV (CCTV) System Under GO-416138R1	Php 17,022,500.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Mr. Rocky M. Turingan** starting November 08, 2005, from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a site inspection shall be held on November 16, 2005 at Leyte Geothermal Production Field. Also, a pre-bid conference shall be held on November 18, 2005, 2:00 p.m. at Procurement Conference Room, 2nd Floor Building 5, Energy Complex, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the Procurement Department at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than 2:00 p.m. (Purchasing Office Wall Clock Time) of December 02, 2005. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

(PDI--Nov. 8 & 15, 2005)

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee I

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BUSINESS

LTO collects ₱8.1B in 9 mos

THE LTO registered 4.3 million vehicles in the first nine months this year against 4.07 million a year ago.

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE LAND TRANSPORTATION Office collected P8.12 billion in the first nine months of the year, up 7.42 percent from P7.55 billion a year ago.

LTO chief Anneli Lontoc said the collection puts the agency on track to meeting its revenue target for the year of P9.3 billion.

Lontoc, however, said the increase in the agency's collection this year was slower than the 19 percent recorded the previous year because 2004 was the last year of the implementation of the road users' tax.

The road users tax or the Motor Vehicle Users' Charge required motorists to pay increasing vehicle registration fees starting 2001.

The road users' tax was collected by the LTO but it was remitted to an account managed by a group called the Road Board.

The road users' tax considered the type and age of the vehicle. Older ones are taxed more.

The funds, estimated at about P5 billion, was supposed to pay for the maintenance of national and provincial roads, minimize air pollution, finance the acquisition of traffic lights.

"Any increase now is just attributed to the increase in vehicle sales and our efficiency in collection," Lontoc said in an interview.

LTO is in charge of licensing motorists and registering vehicles and is one of the government's biggest revenue collectors.

The LTO registered 4.3 million vehicles in the first nine months this year against 4.07 million a year ago.

The agency issued 2.65 million licenses and permits in the first three quarters, up 5 percent against 2.52 million in the same period last year.

Previously, licenses and permits issuance went up 10.82 percent.

Lontoc also pointed out that last year, the LTO sold vanity plates that yielded P20 million for the agency.

The continuing sale of plates should generate about P1 billion for the government in five years.

Part of the LTO's revenue this year also came from apprehensions due to traffic violations, for instance.

In the first nine months, the agency handled 567,459 cases of apprehensions, up 17.76 percent against 481,868 a year ago.

Lontoc added that due to reforms to make operations more efficient, the LTO manufactured only 179,219 pairs of vehicle plates, down 40 percent from 303,262 pairs of plates a year ago.

The LTO had planned to increase its fees and charges this year but it failed to get support.

The government felt it had to cushion the impact of unceasing price increases, primarily due to oil price hikes, thus deferred moves to hike fees and charges.

Lontoc said the LTO had not raised its fees and charges for the last 10 years.

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Chinese firms to bid for Surigao project

By Christine A. Gaylican

CHINESE MINING FIRMS have qualified to bid for the contract to join state-owned Natural Resources Mining Development Corp. in the development of its Dinagat Island chromite reservation project in Northern Surigao.

Mining firms qualified to join NRMDC in the project are CR2O3 Mining Corp., MG Mining and Energy Corp., Philnico Processing Corp., HKT Mining Group Inc., AAM-Philippine Natural Resources, Konka Fulin Mining and Development Corp. and the United Philippines-China, according to the NRMDC's Bids and Awards Committee.

The bid proposals will be evaluated by the bids and awards committee technical board of NRMDC.

The technical board's recommendation will be subject to the final approval of the NRMDC Board of Directors chaired by the DENR.

The NRMDC has been searching for a joint venture partner to help it develop the Dinagat chromite reservation covering 9,775 hectares.

The project covers two areas: Parcel 1 is the 600-hectare area in Barangay Esperanza, Lorenzo, and Parcel 2 covers 9,175 hectares on the southern tip of the island.

NRMDC president Artemio Disini said the corporate arm of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources was advised by its financial adviser, the Development Bank of the Philippines, to go into strategic joint venture arrangements with interested partners to bankroll the P2-billion project.

"The reservation is a good source of metallurgical chromite that could be used in fabricating and chrome plating of steel products," Disini told the INQUIRER in an interview.

He said that 1,000 miners are now undertaking small-scale operations on the project site.

Based on studies conducted by the United Nations Development Program during the 1980s and the 1990s, there are significant chromite and copper deposits in this government reserve waiting to be tapped.

"We believe it is time that we develop the potential of the Dinagat Island mine reserve, to take advantage of the big demand for chromite and copper in China," Disini said.

The final submission of the proposal from investors is on Nov. 14.

Aboitiz firm posts 37% profit hike as of Sept.

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

IMPROVED EARNINGS OF ITS power, food and banking subsidiaries in the first nine months enabled holding firm Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc. to post a 37 percent increase in net profit to P2.48 billion.

Based on its latest financial report, sources said AEV recorded a net income of P756 million in the third quarter, up 31 percent from last year.

AEV's electric power business contributed P1.76 billion to the company's income from January to September 2005, up 50 percent over the same period last year.

All of its power distribution utilities registered a significant earnings growth, contributing P834 million to total earnings, or up 56 percent year-on-year.

Power generation also contributed P931 million, up 44 percent.

The banking group chipped in P731 million to AEV, a 28 percent improvement over the first nine months of 2004.

Union Bank of the Philippines also recorded firm growth in its treasury business, while its asset recovery group helped increase its earning assets base.

Total assets grew by 23 percent year-on-year.

Pilmico Foods Corp. (PFC), AEV's food manufacturing subsidiary, posted a 17 percent increase in its earnings contribution, pitching in P312 million.

Its flour, feeds and swine businesses all registered improved operating margins over last year.

The transport group, on the other hand, contributed a net loss to AEV of P87 million in the first nine months.

Although its revenues for the period were up slightly over last year, the increase in operating costs, particularly in fuel and depreciation expense, offset any revenue gain.

Aboitiz Transport System Corp. (ATSC) recently secured SEC approval to acquire through an exchange of shares some related transport businesses in logistics, crewing, ship management, and airfreight.

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tenor
Zsuzsa Kalocsai
soprano
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István Silló
conductor
Alegria Ocampo Ferrer
soprano

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DOE to pursue dev't of Malampaya oil

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY is pursuing plans to give state-run Philippine National Oil Co. Exploration Corp. (PNOC-EC) the right to extract oil from the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power project.

"We're working on an EO to effect the award to PNOC-EC of the (contract for the extraction of the Malampaya oil)," Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said. "We need this EO because we need the legal basis for directing PNOC-EC to undertake the concession contract."

PNOC-EC, which holds a 10-percent stake in the Malampaya natural gas project, remained the only shareholder interested in extracting and developing the Malampaya oil reserves.

Other consortium members Shell Philippines Exploration BV (Spex) and Chevron Texaco Malampaya LLC had earlier relinquished their right to the Malampaya oil rim as they did not deem the project commercially viable.

Facundo Roco, consortium spokesperson and Spex general manager for external affairs, had earlier said that since the oil rim was expected to yield only around 25 million barrels of oil, the $700 million to $900 million needed to extract and develop it was hardly worth the risk.

"There's a high probability of loss and it's very risky," he said.

He added that since the oil rim was located beneath the Malampaya gas, the very essence of the entire Service Contract 38 (SC 38), extracting the oil would place at risk the Malampaya gas reserves, which, under current production, supplies natural gas to three gas-fired power plants with a total capacity of 2,700 megawatts.

Due to these reasons, the consortium members, in a letter to Lotilla in end-September, formally gave up their rights to the oil rim, subject to certain safeguards that would protect their investment in the gas find.

STILL cookin' at 88
/C3

LIFESTYLE

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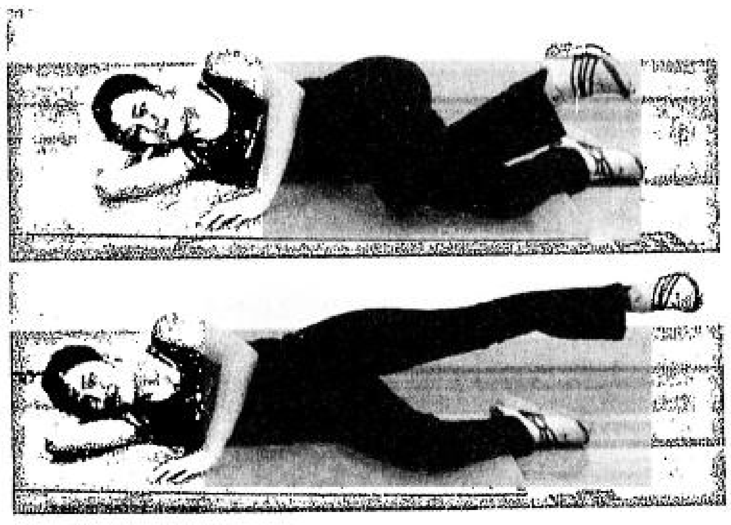
or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

MONDAY **ARTS & BOOKS** ◆ TUESDAY **FITNESS** ◆ WEDNESDAY **2BU** ◆ THURSDAY **FOOD** ◆ FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK



Side leg lift with inward rotation

FIRMS AND TONES THE HIP muscles.

Equipment

Exercise mat and ankle weights (optional)

Exercise technique

1. Lie on your side with one arm under your head, the other arm on the floor for balance, and both knees bent in a 45-degree angle.

2. Inwardly rotate your top leg so that the knee is almost touching the floor and the sole of your foot is facing the ceiling.

3. Straighten your leg in line with your torso and higher than hip level.

4. Do the desired number of repetitions then do the other side.

Performance tips

1. Avoid pulling your knee toward your chest. To make sure that you are doing it right, your knee should be almost touching the floor and your foot pointing to the ceiling.

2. Avoid using jerky sudden movements. Use slow deliberate moves so the hip muscles have to work harder.

Repetitions

Do 15-20 repetitions per side.

Put your best foot forward

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

ON AN AVERAGE DAY, YOU take 5,000 to 10,000 steps. With every step you take, your feet absorb a force that is one and a half times your body weight.

If you run, jump, or do high-impact activity, the force is several times your body weight. And, even though your feet are engineering marvels designed to bear this load, they are still susceptible to injuries.

Women create their own problems by torturing their feet with shoes that are too small, too narrow, or too high. Pointy shoes and high heels are murder on the feet, not to mention a pain in the lower back. The "sexy" posture (arched back and protruding buttocks) achieved with high heels is actually a compensation mechanism so you don't fall flat on your face with every step you take.

A University of Southern California study found 88 percent of female subjects wearing shoes too small for their feet. Dr. George Canlas, orthopedic and sports medicine doctor at St. Luke's Hospital and Sprain and Strain Clinic in Alabang, said majority of foot problems among his female patients were due to shoes that were too small or narrow.

A woman wearing uncomfortable shoes all the time will suffer foot injuries during exercise even if conditions are perfect because she is starting out on the wrong foot, so to speak.

Ditto for men and women with anatomical problems like flat feet, high arches or pronated feet (feet that roll inward), and uneven leg length. Think of your feet as car tires. When not properly aligned, tires will not last long.

Heel

Pain in the heel, "plantar fasciitis" in medical terms, is the most common type of foot pain.

Plantar means sole and fasciitis means inflammation of the fascia or connective tissue from the heel to the ball of the foot.

The pain starts as a tender spot in the arch near the heel. It is worst in the morning when you get out of bed but gets better later in the day. The pain returns if you do any kind of vigorous or prolonged activity like aerobics, running or dancing.

Heel pain may be caused by any weight-bearing activity without the right shoes, doing too much of the same or new activity, being overweight, anatomical mal-alignments, standing for long periods in high heels or thin-soled flat shoes, and inflexible calves/Achilles tendon (at the back of the ankle).

> Women create problems with shoes that are too small, too narrow, too high

Plantar fasciitis can be prevented by stretching the calves and plantar fascia daily. This is a must if you are into regular vigorous exercise or sport. To stretch the calves, position your toes on

PUT/ C4

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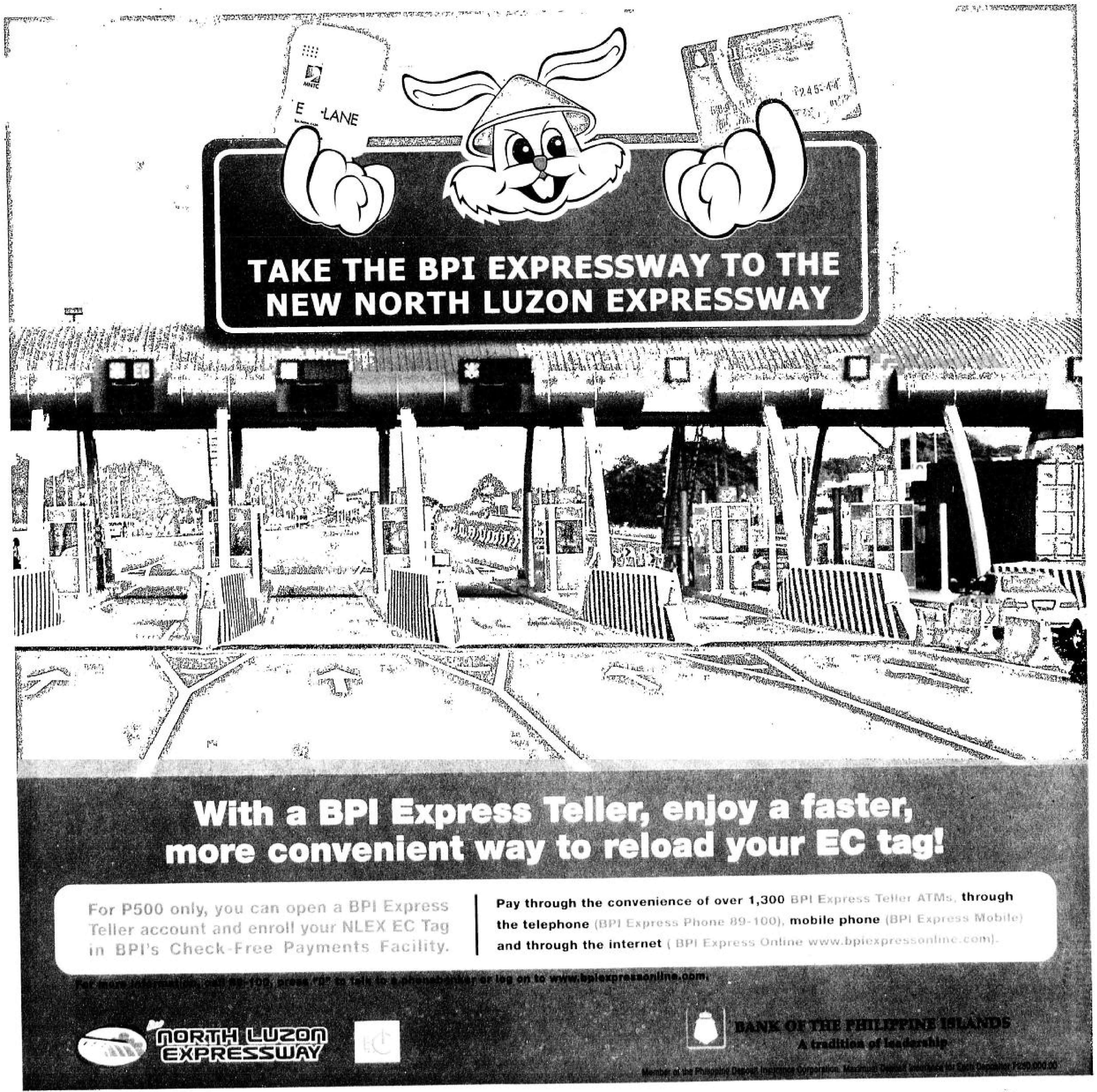

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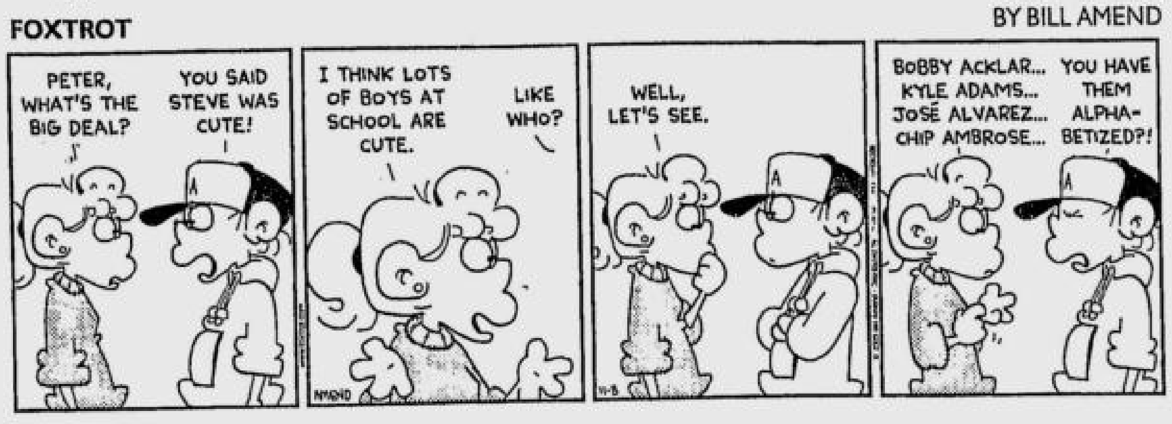
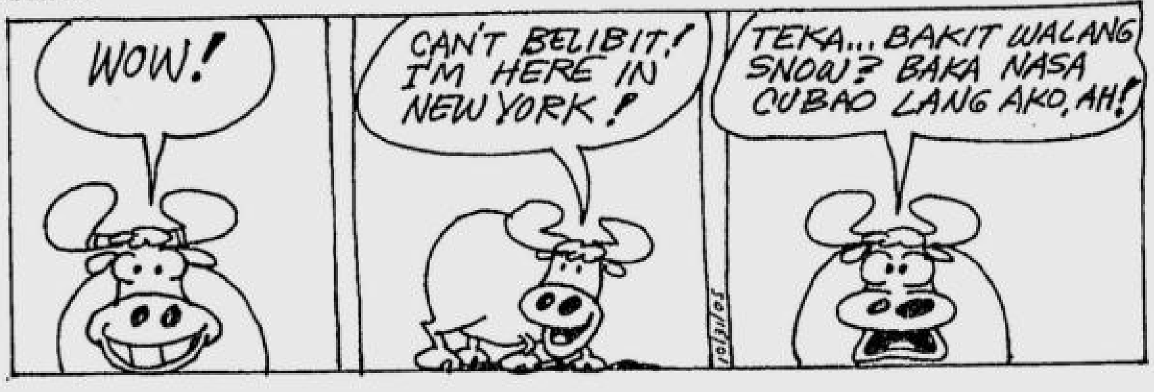
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


PETER, WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
YOU SAID STEVE WAS CUTE!
I THINK LOTS OF BOYS AT SCHOOL ARE CUTE.
LIKE WHO?
WELL, LET'S SEE.
BOBBY ACKLAR... KYLE ADAMS... JOSÉ ALVAREZ... CHIP AMBROSE...
YOU HAVE THEM ALPHA-BETIZED?!

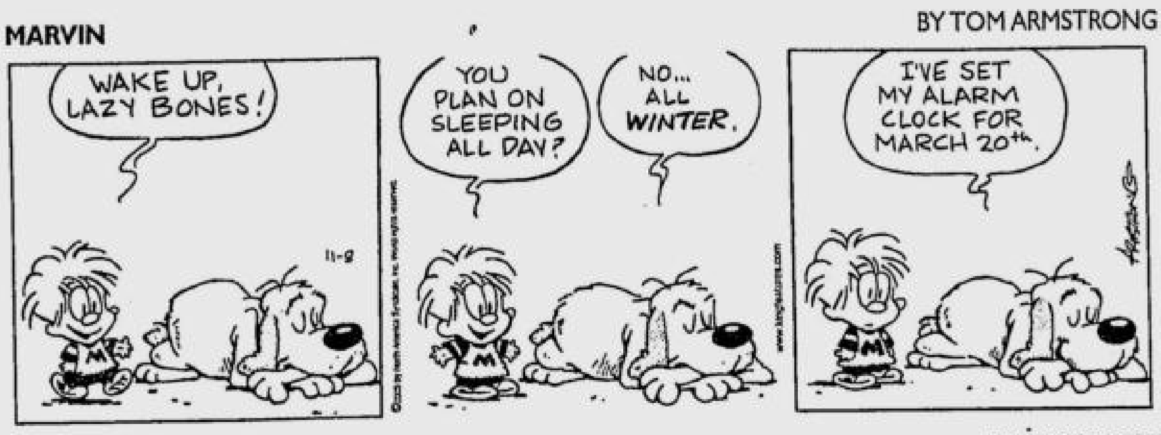
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


WOW!
CAN'T BELIBIT! I'M HERE IN NEW YORK!
TEKA... BAKIT WALANG SNOW? BAKA NASA CUBAO LANG AKO, AH!

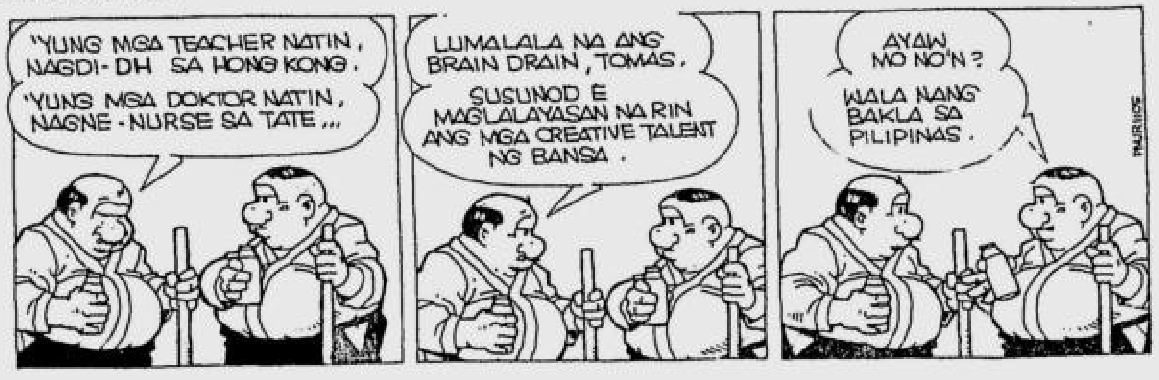
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


WAKE UP, LAZY BONES!
YOU PLAN ON SLEEPING ALL DAY?
NO... ALL WINTER.
I'VE SET MY ALARM CLOCK FOR MARCH 20th.

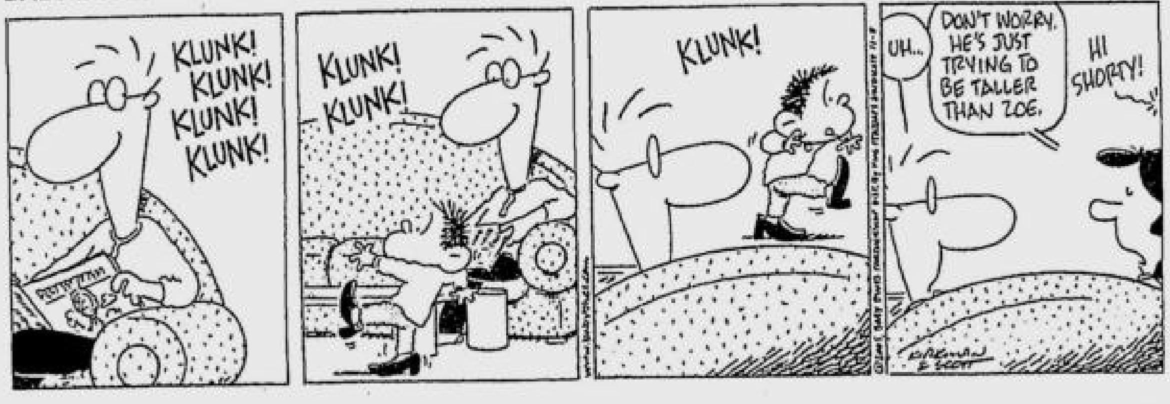
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


'YUNG MGA TEACHER NATIN, NAGDI-DH SA HONG KONG.
'YUNG MGA DOKTOR NATIN, NAGNE-NURSE SA TATE...
LUMALALA NA ANG BRAIN DRAIN, TOMAS.
SUSUNOD E MAGLALAYASAN NA RIN ANG MGA CREATIVE TALENT NG BANSA.
AYAW MO NO'N?
WALA NANG BAKLA SA PILIPINAS.

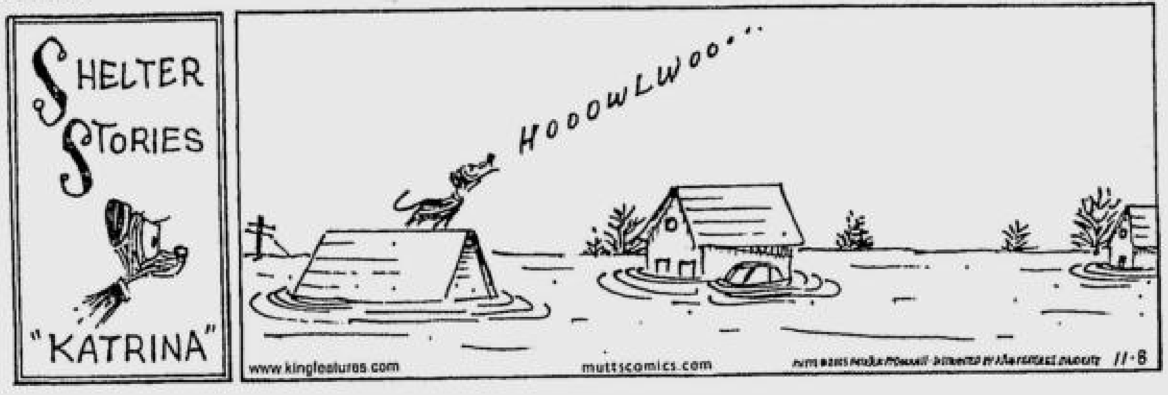
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


KLUNK! KLUNK! KLUNK! KLUNK!
KLUNK! KLUNK!
KLUNK!
UH...
DON'T WORRY. HE'S JUST TRYING TO BE TALLER THAN ZOE.
HI SHORTY!

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SHELTER STORIES
"KATRINA"
HOOOWLWOO...
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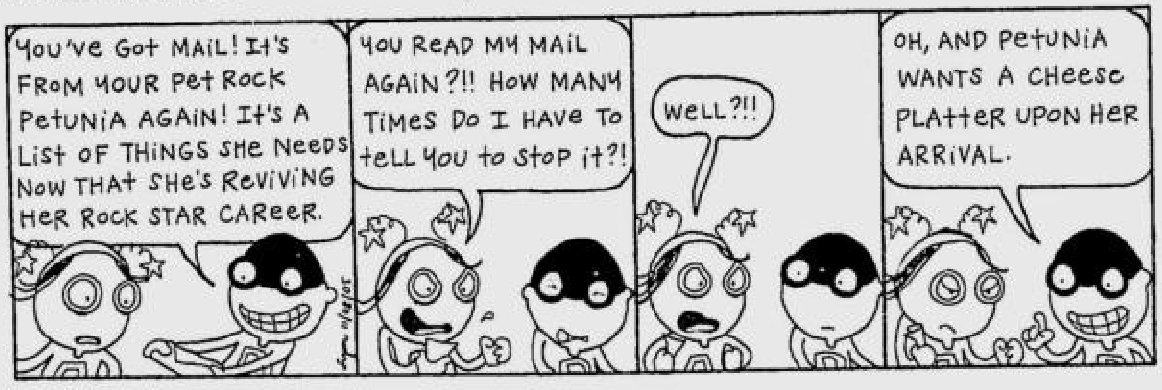
muttscomics.com

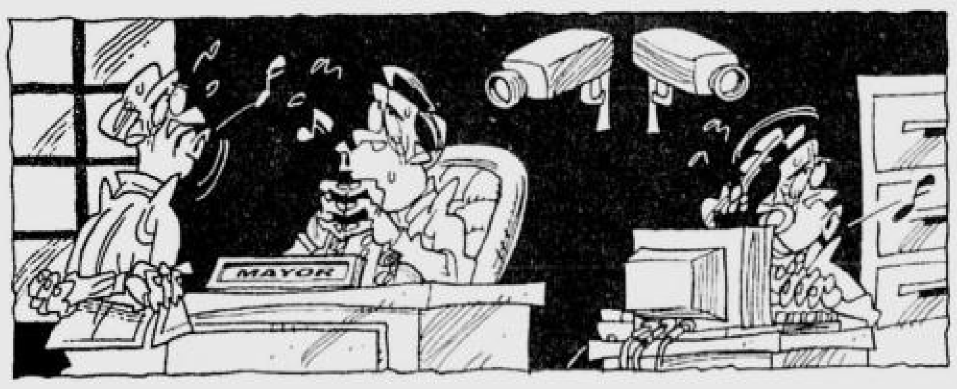
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


YOU'VE GOT MAIL! IT'S FROM YOUR PET ROCK PETUNIA AGAIN! IT'S A LIST OF THINGS SHE NEEDS NOW THAT SHE'S REVIVING HER ROCK STAR CAREER.
YOU READ MY MAIL AGAIN?!! HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU TO STOP IT?!
WELL?!!
OH, AND PETUNIA WANTS A CHEESE PLATTER UPON HER ARRIVAL.

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



TULAD NG INAASAHAN, NABAWASAN ANG CORRUPTION SA PILIPINAS NANG GINAWANG SETTING NG PANGALAWANG SEASON NG PINOY BIG BROTHER ANG LAHAT NG MGA CITY HALL SA BANSA

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're not afraid to go beyond traditional boundaries. Others might criticize you for what you know to be original thinking. Your focus on what you want brings success in this lifetime. (But your public mask and your private life are very different.) This year could be one of the most powerful years of your life! Expect a miracle. **Birthdate of:** Tara Reid, actress; Courtney Thorne-Smith, actress; Morley Safer, news correspondent.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Something is happening in your life that makes others respect you right now. You might as well milk this for all it's worth. Enjoy your status and popularity.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Opportunities to travel or get training and education in the field of your choice are likely now. This could be minor or a very big deal. Take advantage of it!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Gifts, goodies, advantages and opportunities come your way through others now. Perhaps your partner gets a bonus, increased earnings or an inheritance? Whatever happens, you benefit.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Relationships with partners, friends and customers are excellent today. You're in fine form! Since your people skills are so good today, negotiate whatever you want.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Your relations with co-workers are solid today. People are helpful. This is a good day for business and commerce. Work hard to advance your cause.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a grand day for a vacation, the theater, the arts and parties or social occasions. Romance and love affairs flourish now! You want to have fun!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is an excellent day for real estate deals or shopping for family members or your home. Anything that relates to your domestic life can receive a positive benefit today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Your communication skills are fabulous today! You can talk anyone into anything. People want to be in your presence because you're happy, upbeat and optimistic.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a good day to make money. All business and commerce are favored. Similarly, if you shop today, you'll get good value for your money. Kaching!

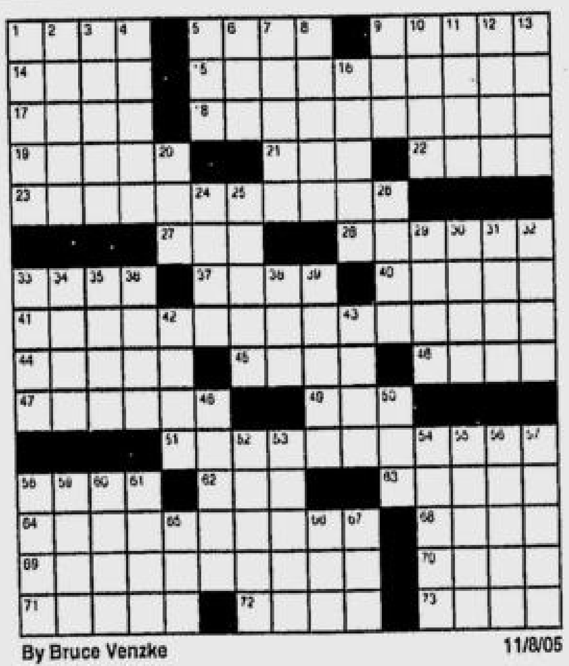
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a popular, friendly day for you! People think you're charming and attractive. It's a great time to deal with groups, clubs and organizations.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is the day to talk to the government or members of large institutions so that you can push forward your own agenda. Go after whatever you want. People are receptive to you today.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Your star is shining today! That's why this is the day to talk to bosses, parents, teachers and authority figures. They can see that you look like a winner!

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Dirty air
5 City slicker
9 Mouse cousins
14 Bee abode
15 Nuclear reactor
17 African lily
18 Kind of voter
19 Bump in salary
21 Ike's command
22 Wine sediment
23 Kind of voter
27 GI mail drop
28 Grain cutter
33 "The King and I" character
37 Prefix for dollar or Disney
40 Like a windmill
41 Biggest threat to all candidates?
44 Deep singer
45 Location
46 Remain
47 Iron alloys
49 PC key
51 Kind of voter
58 Word of mouth
62 Flight from the law
63 Orr or Knight
64 Kind of voter
68 "Hud" co-star
69 Living in peace together
70 The "Censor" of Rome
71 Something valuable
72 Thomas of clocks
73 Portent

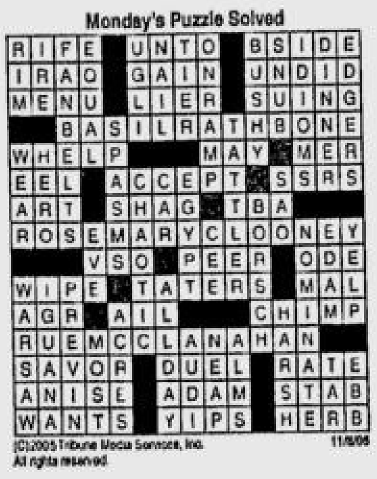


By Bruce Venzke
Madison, WI

11/8/05

DOWN
1 Belafonte or Lewis
2 City in Italy
3 Not quite round
4 "...six __ a-laying..."
5 Pop equivalent
6 Shoshone
7 Like many new stadia
8 Overact
9 TV adjunct
10 October gem
11 Caloric content word
12 Nobelist Wiesel
13 Parts of mins.
16 Those given uncritical devotion
20 Mother Nature's support grp.?
24 Rapier's cousin
25 Sentence subjects
26 In-home digital entertainment syst.
29 Part of a rainstorm pair
30 Wield needles
31 Olin or Horne
32 Uptight
33 L.A.P.D. alerts
34 Tidily organized
35 Rocket top
36 Altar area
38 King of France
39 Playful river denizen
42 Loaf about
43 Waistcoat
48 Window parts
50 Taxi
52 Minnows and worms
53 Roast host
54 Infomercial name
55 Construction piece
56 Reduce in intensity
57 Synthetic fiber
58 Killer whale
59 Old Olds cars
60 Mimic
61 De __ (sumptuously)
65 Tiny portion
66 Picnic pest
67 Utmost degree

Monday's Puzzle Solved



R	I	F	E	■	U	N	T	O	■	B	S	I	D	E
I	R	A	Q	■	G	A	I	N	■	U	N	D	I	D
M	E	N	U	■	L	I	E	R	■	S	U	I	N	G
■	■	B	A	S	I	L	R	A	T	H	B	O	N	E
W	H	E	L	P	■	■	■	M	A	Y	■	M	E	R
E	E	L	■	A	C	C	E	P	T	■	S	S	R	S
A	R	T	■	S	H	A	G	■	T	B	A	■	■	■
R	O	S	E	M	A	R	Y	C	L	O	O	N	E	Y
■	■	■	V	S	O	■	P	E	E	R	■	O	D	E
W	I	P	E	■	T	A	T	E	R	S	■	M	A	L
A	G	R	■	A	I	L	■	■	■	C	H	I	M	P
R	U	E	M	C	C	L	A	N	A	H	A	N	■	■
S	A	V	O	R	■	D	U	E	L	■	R	A	T	E
A	N	I	S	E	■	A	D	A	M	■	S	T	A	B
W	A	N	T	S	■	Y	I	P	S	■	H	E	R	B

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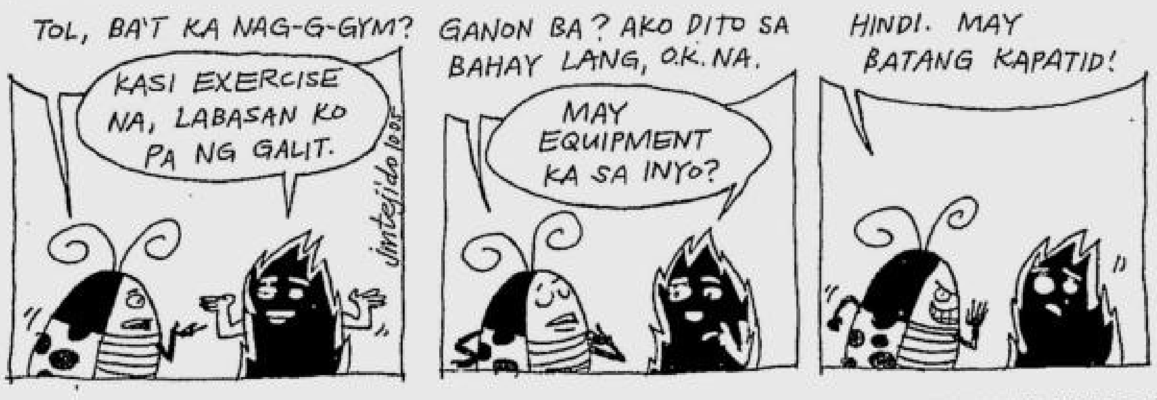
11/8/05

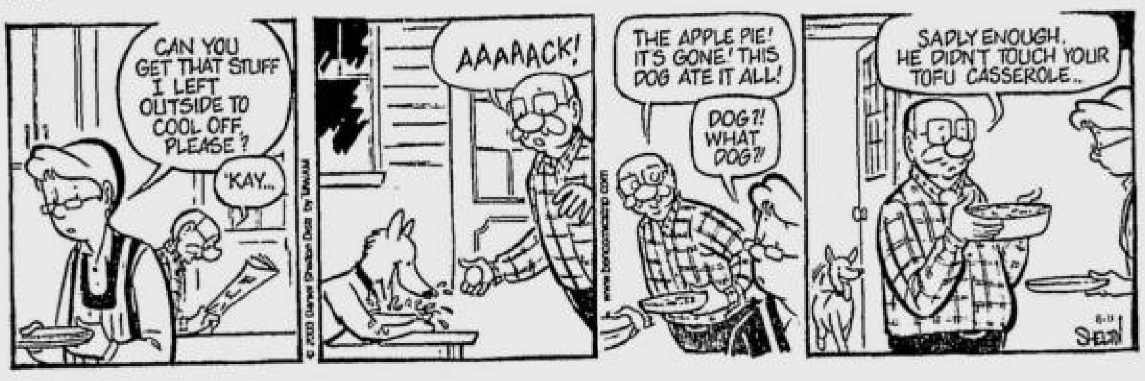
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


TOL, BA'T KA NAG-G-GYM?
KASI EXERCISE NA, LABASAN KO PA NG GALIT.
GANON BA? AKO DITO SA BAHAY LANG, O.K. NA.
MAY EQUIPMENT KA SA INYO?
HINDI. MAY BATANG KAPATID!

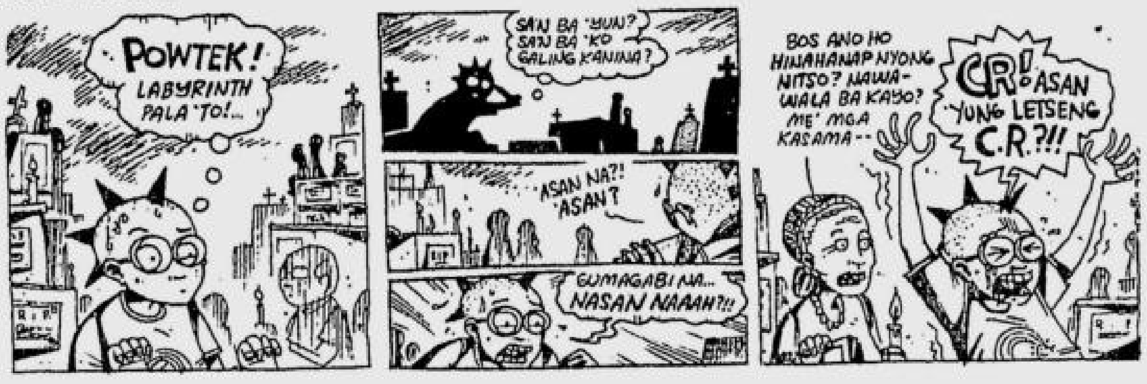
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


CAN YOU GET THAT STUFF I LEFT OUTSIDE TO COOL OFF, PLEASE?
'KAY...
AAAAACK!
THE APPLE PIE! IT'S GONE! THIS DOG ATE IT ALL!
DOG?! WHAT DOG?!
SADLY ENOUGH, HE DIDN'T TOUCH YOUR TOFU CASSEROLE..

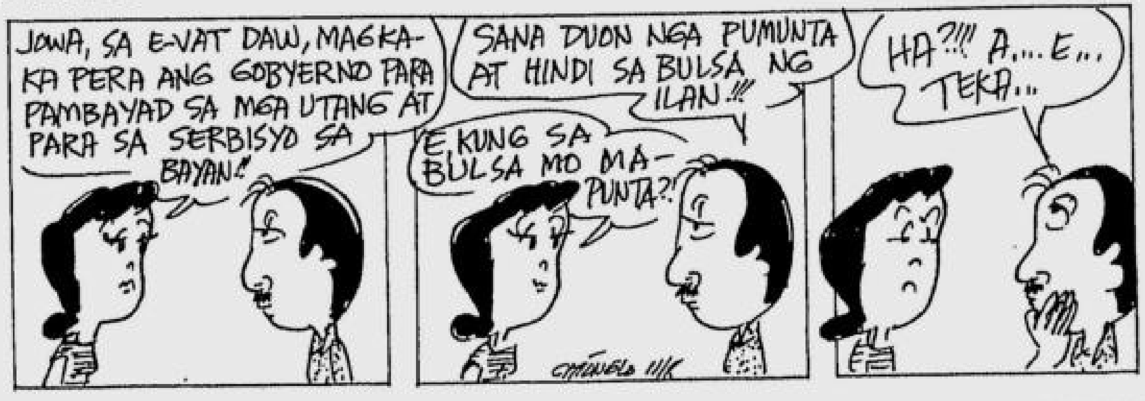
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


POWTEK! LABYRINTH PALA 'TO!...
SAN BA 'YUN? SAN BA 'KO GALING KANINA?
ASAN NA?! ASAN?
GUMAGABI NA... NASAN NAAAH?!!
BOS ANO HO HINAHANAP NYONG NITSO? NAWA-WALA BA KAYO? ME' MGA KASAMA--
CR! ASAN 'YUNG LETSENG C.R.?!!

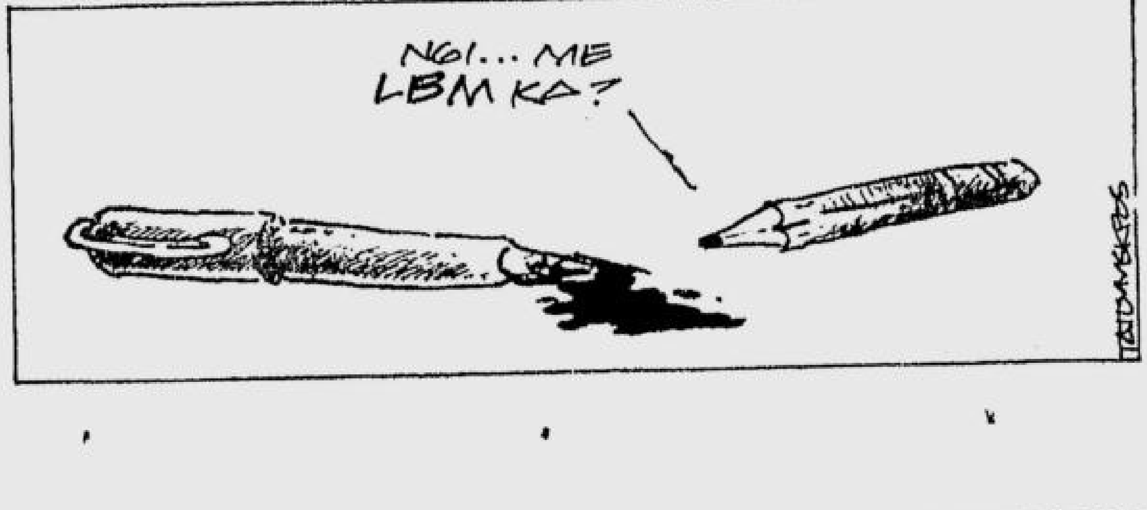
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, SA E-VAT DAW, MAGKA-KA PERA ANG GOBYERNO PARA PAMBAYAD SA MGA UTANG AT PARA SA SERBISYO SA BAYAN!
SANA DUON NGA PUMUNTA AT HINDI SA BULSA NG ILAN!!!
E KUNG SA BULSA MO MAPUNTA?!
HA?!!! A.... E... TEKA...

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


NGI... ME LBM KA?

AFRIC'S children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren with (seated) Babeth Lolarga, Jocelyn de Jesus, Afric Reynoso, Armand Fabella, Rina David and Julie Yap

CARLOS Anton with Sylvia Ilusorio-Yap and Tito Reynoso

DOÑA Loleng, architect Pablito Panlilio and Erlinda Reynoso-Araullo

88 years young and still cookin'

POPULAR taipan Hans Sy with eye-catcher Carol Sy, Marilen Espiritu, Marinela Fabella, (standing) Karen and Edna Anton

SEATED: Karen Moras with Maritonie Ortigas. Standing: Pochola Hagedorn and Betina Legarda

CAMPERS at the La Mesa Ecopark, venue for ABS-CBN Foundation's Family Wellness Festival, Nov. 12-13

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

SHE IS A LADY OF GRACE AND CHARM, known for her love of good food.

So, on her birthday, Doña **Africa Valdes vda. de Reynoso,** "Lola Afric" to her numerous *palanggas*, not only celebrated "double eight" at the posh Manila Polo Club's Turf Room with a grand dinner, but also launched her much-anticipated cookbook, "The Reynoso Flair—80 Years of Lola Afric's Cooking" published by her daughter, vivacious and cyber smart **Edna Reynoso-Anton,** with top editor/writer **Babeth Lolarga.**

Very few people her age can accomplish the awesome double feat, *palanggas*. Brilliant **Julie Yap-Daza** wrote in the blurb for her book: "From her, we have powerful lessons to learn. The patience she signified by the low fire and the slow simmer. The large-heartedness that preserves family values, sweetening togetherness and cooking it into a living legend!"

Rina Jimenez-David said: "There's lots of food in this volume, many year's worth of recipes that have filled the bellies of *famille*, friends and thousands of satisfied customers."

Domini Torrevillas added: "You never leave her presence with an empty stomach and your heart is full of memories of her ministrations."

Valuable training

Turning a beautiful 88, she basks in the glory of having trained her nine children in entrepreneurship and the value of hard work (even if they were all born with a golden spoon). Most of her children and grandchildren own and run their super successful restaurants and fast-food outlets.

Among her children best known in the culinary field is my *palangga* **Lorrie,** a graduate of the prestigious Le Cordon Bleu in Paris, and top chef-instructor for 17 years at the Art Institute of New York, formerly the New York Restaurant School. **Sylvia Reynoso-Gala,** a graduate of the renowned Academia de Gastronomos and the Institut Chateau Beau Cedre in Switzerland, has run her own culinary school since the early '70s. **Erlinda Reynoso-Araullo** is the only certified Wilton Method instructor in the country today. She travels twice a year from her home in California to Makati to teach cake-decorating and sausage-making at Living Well and Gourdo's in Rockwell and her sister Sylvia's cooking school.

It was a fab happening. Invitees enjoyed the excellent dinner, superbly prepared by the club's Turf Room. Copies of the book brought for the launching were sold out.

The big question was when Lola Afric's "Reynoso Flair Part 2" would come out. Check out Doña Afric's must-have cookbook at National Bookstore branches.

Annual ball

The civic-oriented women of the Friends for Cultural Concerns of the Philippines (FCCP) dedicate themselves to the support of our talented artists, audience-development and scholarship for deserving young talents. "Our biggest project this year is to donate a room to the National Art Gallery of the National Museum," said president **Mellie Ablaza,** *palanggas*.

The FCCP will have its annual fundraising ball, "Carnevale Venezia," Nov. 8, at the NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio.

Proceeds of this *trés* important event will go to the National Museum, Philippine Research for Developing Instrumental Soloists, Cultural Center of the Philippines and Performing and Visual Artists.

Chair of the project is **Helen Ong,** assisted by president Mellie and director **Nene Leonor,** plus members. It's for a good cause people. Be there.

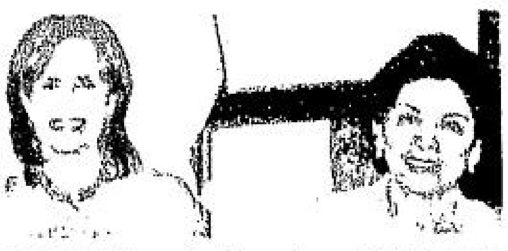
Other helping hands are Lifestyle Asia, Furn Italia, Vibal Publishing House, Great Ship Travel Adventure, Focus Global, Cats Motors, Jo-Liza Arts and Antiques, Las Palmas Furniture, Pagoda Philippines, Deco Centrum and Globe Telecom.

Wellness

The Bantay Kalikasan Program, a project of the ABS-CBN Foundation, will hold this year's most exciting *famille* event, The Family Wellness Festival, "Live, Love and Learn!" at the La Mesa Ecopark, Nov. 12-13.

Wellness lectures will have for speakers that gal who started it all, **Gina Lopez** no less, managing director of ABS-CBN Foundation Inc.; **Mariel Francisco,** writer/founder of Chacra; **Tina Juan,** fitness guru and health columnist, Philippine Daily Inquirer; Sister **Sonia Punzalan,** Zen master, PhD in Anthropology, Cenacle nun; Fr. **Efren Borromeo,** candidate-PhD in Anthropology, masters in Theological Studies, international healer, plus so many others.

THE ATIENZA family: Cecille Reynoso-Atienza with Marty, Jack, Charly and Nikki Atienza and Baby Atienza-Lim



CONNIE Gonzalez Araneta and Beth Lacson

Also featured, *palanggas*, is the awesome Jazz Festival and Neo-Ethnic concert. The first night will be the first ever Philippine open-air jazz festival with world-class performers like **Richard Merk, Mitch Valdez, Vernie Varga, Bituin Escalante** and **Mon David.** The Neo-Ethnic Artists' Music Festival on the second night will feature top-caliber musicians like **Joey Ayala, Grace Nono,** Pinikpikan and Pangkat Kawayan.

Both concerts will be held at the Petron Amphitheater, La Mesa Ecopark, natch.

Yes, *palanggas*, discover the secrets to a full life and treat your family to a weekend of cool, wholesome fun, healthy shopping and chill-out relaxation. Proceeds will go to the reforestation of the La Mesa Watershed, the last gorgeous forest of its size within Metro Manila, source of the metro's drinking water.

Be there, people. We need your full support for this *trés* important project, *palanggas*.

Tickets are available in all Ticketnet and TicketWorld outlets or the Bantay Kalikasan office at 4109670 or 4152227.

The cure may be worse than the disease

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

REPORTS SAY THE THIRD LEADING cause of deaths in the United States is medical drugs legally administered by doctors. There is even a name for the illness caused by doctors—"iatrogenic disease."

I had a scary experience recently that could have been fatal. I was in a well-known hospital in the suburb on the advice of my cardiologist to determine what was causing my blood pressure to fluctuate despite strong medication.

A nuclear scan of my heart was done to see if there were clogged arteries. The test required injection of radioactive isotope and intravenous administration of a drug —Persantine or Dipyridamole—to dilate blood vessels.

Safe

The cardiologist at the Nuclear Medicine unit explained beforehand what was to be done and what effects the drug would have. He said the drug was very safe and only a very small dose would be injected.

But I was worried because of my extreme sensitivity to drugs, electricity, electromagnetic fields and subtle energy. The doctor assured me the drug was perfectly safe, and "I will be monitoring you and we have an antidote to the drug, in case something happens."

As the nurse administered the drug, the doctor monitored my blood pressure and heart beat, asking every few seconds how I felt. As the drug was injected, I felt a strange sensation and my head swell.

The doctor said it was normal and the nurse continued. I told her to stop but the doctor said "just a little more" so my blood vessels would be dilated for the nuclear scan.

When the dosage reached 24.6 mg, about half the normal dose, my heart started pounding. I felt nauseous, my breathing became labored, and my blood pressure shot up.

I told the doctor, "I warned you I am very sensitive to medicines." My heart started to pound more heavily and my blood pressure continued to go up. I yelled for my wife, my attending physician and my lawyer.

My attending physician asked what happened. She saw the monitor going berserk. Somebody ordered for oxygen to be given to me. An antidote was probably injected and my vital signs returned to normal.

Sensitive

Before that test was administered, I told the cardiologist and nurses in the nuclear medicine unit two incidents showing how sensitive I was to subtle energy.

The first happened in the mid-'80s in Tokyo, Japan. Dr. Hiroshi Motoyoma, founder of a research institute on parapsychology and religion, asked if I wanted my energy body analyzed by a machine he invented, the Apparatus for Meridian Identification (AMI).

The machine proved the existence of Chinese acupuncture points and *chakras* or psychic centers. It involved the attachment of electrodes to certain parts of the body like feet, legs, chest and head. A very small amount of electricity then passed through the body and a computer printed out the findings.

I told Dr. Motoyoma's Australian technician I was extremely sensitive to electromagnetic fields. The technician merely smiled and said, "Don't worry. Nobody even notices the electricity is already on because it is very low."

After all electrodes were in place, the current was turned on. I felt it immediately but did not say anything. It was not unpleasant. After two to three minutes, I felt light, as if I were going out of my body. It was the same sensation I felt when going into trance.

I told the technician to turn off the electricity because I was going out of my body. He asked for a few seconds more. Just as I blacked out, he turned off the machine. It took me a few minutes to return to full outer consciousness.

When Dr. Motoyoma analyzed the printout, he said results showed my astral body was very loose so I went out of the body or into trance easily. He said out of thousands of people tested by the AMI machine, only a Tibetan monk, aside from myself, went into a trance or out of the body.

The second incident happened early this year in a dentist's clinic. I was going to have a panoramic teeth X-ray. It was a first for me so I had no idea what it entailed. I didn't ask any question.

The panoramic X-ray required that the apparatus went completely around the head and face in a horizontal direction while the patient was seated. A harness was attached to both sides of the face to immobilize the patient. The process took a full 30 seconds.

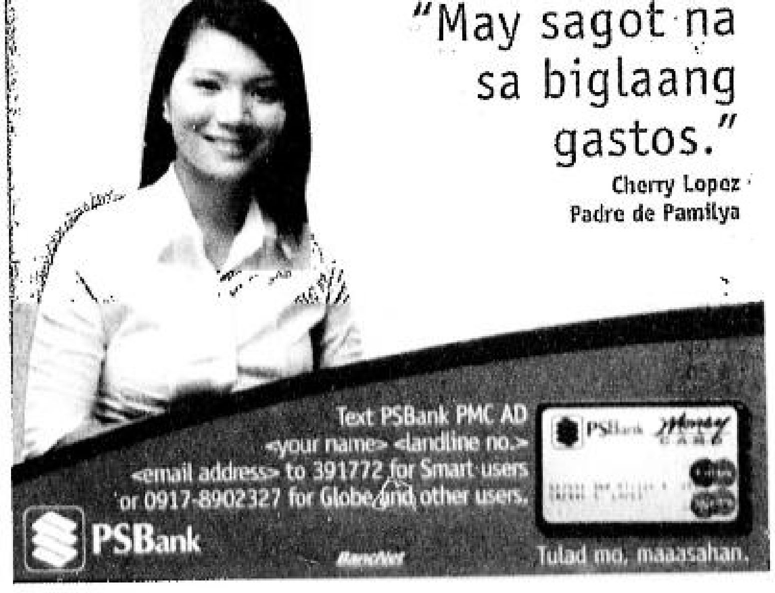
Afterwards, I felt nauseated. When I stood up, I hardly made a few steps before collapsing in a trance. My dentist was shocked. She thought I had a heart attack. I managed to tell her not to worry. I said I was just affected by radiation from the X-ray machine.

I said the trance happened when I was in a strong energy field. She gave me a tablet to neutralize the effects of radiation.

My type of reaction to these medical procedures is rare but should not be ignored. The consequences can be fatal.

I hope the incidents make medical practitioners think when conducting tests.

Note: The next Inner Mind Development seminar will be held 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Nov. 12-13, Rm. 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legazpi St., Makati. Call 8107245 or 8926806 for details.



"May sagot na sa biglaang gastos."
Cherry Lopez
Padre de Pamilya

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Tulad mo, maaasahan.

New help for menopausal women

MENOPAUSE, IS A NATURAL, INEVITABLE stage in a woman's life.

So women should learn to cope with changes both in mind and body by learning more about the condition.

Products are available to ease symptoms like hot flushes, night sweats, vaginal dryness, mood swings and temper outbursts.

One new product may be particularly helpful for vaginal dryness. Felina is a water-based lubricant to help relieve pain cause by vaginal dryness. Specially formulated for menopausal women, it can help women enjoy life even during menopause, considered the official end of reproductive years.

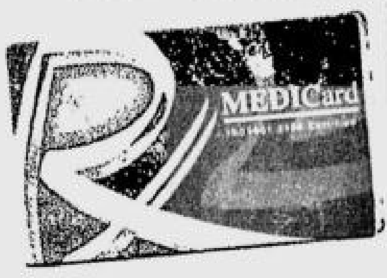
But even at this stage, modern women continue to lead active lives: managing family and career, while engaging in various social activities. Experts say women need help in coping with this exciting and exacting time in their lives.

MEDICard, The Healthcare I Deserve!

Take Charge Doc!

What is Filariasis? Is the illness common in the Philippines?

Lymphatic Filariasis, known as "Elephantiasis", is a chronic parasitic infection caused by thread like parasitic filarial worms (Wuchereria brancofti and Brugia malayi). Filariasis remains one of the public health problems in the Philippines since 1907.The disease is transmitted through the bite of infected female mosquito (Aedes, Anopheles and Mansonia species). The larvae is carried in the blood circulation and lodged in lymphatic vessels and lymph glands where they mature into adult worms. The chronic complications of Filariasis come after the death of an adult parasites, granulation tissue around the dead parasite results in obstruction of lyphatic channels. This produces extensive debilitation and disfigurement resulting to social stigma and extensive alienation. There are 3 basic disease stage: 1) Asymptomatic-patients have hidden damage to the lymphatic system and kidneys, 2) Acute- attacks of "filarial fever" (pain and inflammation of lymph nodes and ducts, often accompanied by fever, nausea and vomiting) increase severity of chronic disease. 3) Chronic- may cause elephantiasis and hydrocele (swelling of the scrotum) in males and enlarged breast in females. Treatment is to prevent, reverse or halt progression of disease and to interrupt transmission of the parasite. Antifilarial drugs are Diethylcarbamazine, Ivermectin and Suramine. Preventive measures include educating patients and public on mode of transmission of disease and methods of mosquito control such as elimination of breeding places and use of bednets, screens and insect repellant.



This week's answer to our feature question was provided by our two-year medical service provider/Medical Coordinator at HealthServ Los Baños Inc., Dr. Ronaldo Escobin Lapitan. Dr. Ron specializes in IM-Infectious and earned his medical degree at Fatima College of Medicine. He took his residency training for Family Medicine in 2000 and later had his subspecialization training in Infectious Disease at San Lazaro Hospital in 2002. Dr. Lapitan is affiliated with the Philippine Academy of Family Physician, Inc., Philippine Society for Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, San Lazaro Hospital Fellows Society Makiling Medical-Laguna Medical Society and Philippine Medical Association MEDICard members may visit him at HealthServ Los Baños Mondays 9am-4pm and Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9am-2pm, Calamba Medical Center, Tuedays to Fridays 3pm-5pm.

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

Nicky

MEDICard [illegible] 9th floor Sagittarius Building H.V. dela Costa Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City 1227 Trunklines: 867-2020 Fax No.: 894-6720, 810-3456 Text: Key in MEDICARD and send to 2344 (Globe & Touch) [illegible] E-mail: inquiry@medicardphils.com [illegible]

Put your best foot forward

From page C1

top of a stair rung and slowly lower your heel.

To stretch the plantar fascia, sit down and extend one leg in front of you. Wrap a belt or towel around your toes and pull them toward you. Hold the stretches for 30-60 seconds. Do once a day for prevention. If you already have plantar fasciitis, do once every hour throughout the day until the fascia heals.

Ball

The symptoms are a burning or numb feeling in the ball of the foot. It is caused by repeated pressure in that area squishing the toes together. Women are the usual victims because they tend to choose shoes that are too small, narrow, tight, or high.

Some women choose small shoes because they think big feet are unfeminine or they are in denial about their shoe size. Feet usually get bigger after pregnancy because of sudden weight gain and may never regain their original size.

The simple solution is to wear shoes wide enough for your feet. The toes should be able to wiggle inside your shoes, athletic or otherwise.

Orthotics

People with anatomical foot problems should consult an orthopedic doctor for the right kind of orthotics (special insoles inserted into shoes). There are three basic types—cushioning if you need more padding in the soles, support for flat or high arches, and combination providing cushioning and support.

People with uneven leg lengths usually need a lift in the shorter leg. Otherwise, pain will develop in the foot of the longer leg. People with pronated feet need orthotics or athletic shoes that will control the inward rolling of their feet.

A simple way to check if you are at risk for foot problems because of anatomy is to wet your feet and walk across any dry surface. If the wet mark shows the whole foot, it is flat; if only part of the foot, you have high arches.

High heels

Women with a shoe addiction are not likely to give up their high heels easily. Here are some tips from Francesca Thompson, an orthopedic surgeon specializing in foot and ankle problems, interviewed many years back by Vogue magazine.

- Use a cushioning orthotic to lessen the impact on the front of the foot.
- Stretch daily to lengthen the calf muscle.
- Alternate high heels with low heels.

Thompson adds, "My advice about heels is to treat them sparingly—kind of like a hot fudge sundae."

And from the Johns Hopkins Medical Newsletter: "Wearing comfortable shoes that fit well is the first line of defense in preventing foot problems. Foot width may increase with age, so have your feet measured before buying shoes. Buy shoes with shock-absorbent soles and good padding in the heels. Low-heeled shoes are more comfortable and less damaging to the feet than high-heeled shoes. How much you weigh also plays an important role in whether you develop foot pain. Losing weight will take pressure off tired, over-taxed feet."

The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Philippines will hold its annual national convention Nov. 18-20. Call Joy at 0917-5181202 or 9202762.

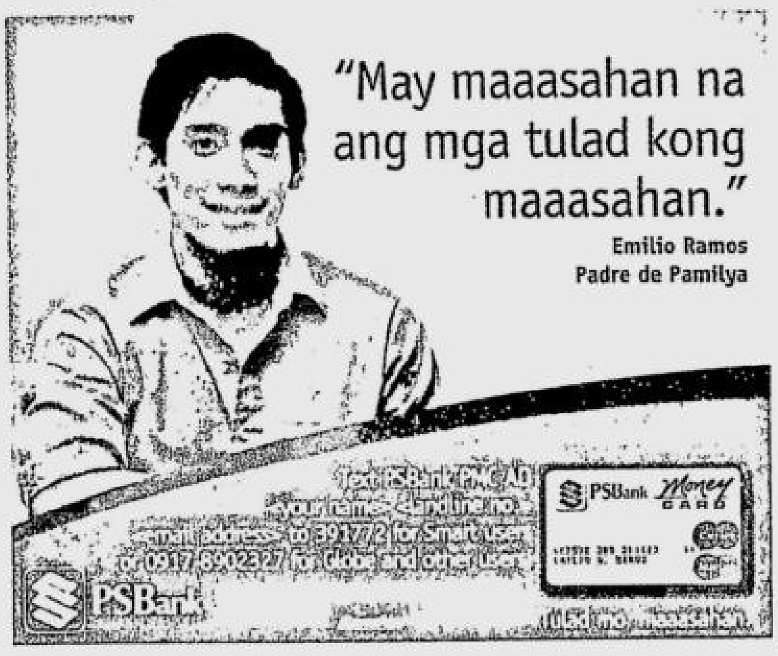
Manila hosts international congress of heart, lung surgeons

THE 17TH BIENNIAL CONGRESS OF THE Association of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeons of Asia will be held Nov. 20-23 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

World-renowned surgeons in thoracic and cardiovascular surgery and critical care specialists will discuss the latest developments in these fields of medicine.

Topics include treatment of lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, esophageal surgery, aortic aneurysms and dissections, congenital heart surgery, surgery for the failing heart, valve, coronary, re-do cardiac, minimally invasive surgery, cerebral protection, heart and lung transplantation and other illnesses of the pulmonary and cardiovascular systems, as well as the management of the critically ill patients.

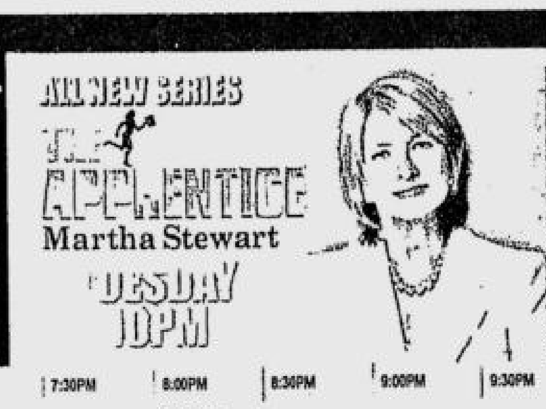
Visit www.atcsa.org, e-mail info@atcsa.org, call 9293826 and 9252401 local 3216, or text 0920-9126436 and 0927-9995377.



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

ALL NEW SEASON
THE APPRENTICE
MONDAY 10PM
SEE IT FIRST ON
ABC



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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN		Value Vision		New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Dyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sia?	Tingog Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo				Pilipinas Ngayon Na!		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Amazing Twins	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Vietnam Rose	Kampanerang Kuba	Panday	Pinoy Big Brother	Bora			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		World Pool Trickshot Master				Sentro	Mumbai Thriller	Sakristan Mayor				Big News	The Apprentice		ALI	
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Hotelier	12 Kingdoms	Slam Dunk	All For Love		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Dama	Encantadia	Sugo	Sassy Girl	Bahay Mo Ba 'To?			Saksi
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Global Battle Of The Bands	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Real Gilligan's Island		The Cut		Paradise Hotel		Newswatch Now	Tuesday Night Treat		
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Japan Video Topics		ME TV		Sea Games Special		King Of Adventure	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop						Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Music Video		Buhay Pinoy	
Studio 23								Get Backers	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup	The Rebel Billionaire	Angel		Smallville		News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me
MTV Philippines	MTV Screen	Spring Break	Diyes		Punk'D	Pop Inc		MTV Hits				MTV Hits	Get Spotted	TRL		Advance Warning	Pimp My Ride	MTV Hits	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYX Versions		Star MYX	MYXILOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Top Of The Pops		MYX News	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN												Sportscenter Asia							
Solar Sports		2005 US Open 9-Ball C'ship		Fight	NBA Game New Jersey Nets @ Miami Heat					Swatch FIVB Tour Stare Jablonki		2005 US Open 9-Ball C'ship		NBA Game San Antonio Spurs @ Chicago Bulls					RTC # 7-Nuggets
Sports Plus								Raceworld		Dickies 500 Highlights		Ultimate Fighting Championship				Celebrity Poker Tournament			
Cinemax		Contagious (3:15 PM)				El Diablo				Purple Hearts				Fire Down Below			The Sea Wolves (10:45PM)		
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Wire In The Blood		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	The Nanny	Mysterious Way		Wire In The Blood		The Freediver			Agency II (10:35PM)		Mysterious Way
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Unfakative Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Lilo & Stitch	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Phil Of The Future	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel		Altered Species		Why Intelligence Fails		Wild Science Queen Mary 2, Birth Of A Legend		Rides		Human Discovery		Wild Discovery		Deadliest Catch		Mostly True Stories			
National Geographic		7/7 Attack On London			The Airshow Miracle	Is It Real?		Top 5		Wow!		About Asia		Nat Geographic Specials		Seconds From Disaster		Inside 911	
Cartoon Network	Yogi Bear Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	What's New Scooby Doo?	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Codename: Kids Next Door	Duck Dodgers	Battle B-Daman	Machine Robo-Rescue	Johnny Bravo	Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Samurai Jack	Mike, Lu & Og	Time Squad	Codename: Kids Next Door	Duck Dodgers
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/ What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot/ Right On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	Drake & Josh	The Fairly Odd Parents	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	The Brothers Garcia
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fix!	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Moto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Passion For Dessert	Second Look		Look For Less	Life & Style		Who's Wedding Is it Anyway?		Road & Track	Back To Basics
Star World	Becker/Miss World Asia Pacific Vote For Me/Miss World Caribbean Vote For Me	The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Angel		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Friends	Ed		Desperate Housewives		Tru Calling		Friends	Ed
AXN		Lost		Lost		Sports Disasters IV		Beastmaster		Pensacola (Season III)		The Amazing Race Family Edition		Worlds Apart		House		Las Vegas	
JackTV	Family Guy	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Beat The Geeks	WWE Bottomline		WWE Afterburn		X-Play	Banzai	Mad TV		Trigger Happy TV	Primetime Glick	South Park	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Ren & Stimpy Adult Party Cartoon	Family Guy	Wwe Heat	
ETC		Good Morning Miami	Knock First	1 Hr Edited Version Of Today Show		Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	JKX	Simple Life	One Tree Hill		For Love Or Money		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO			Death Wish 4: The Crackdown				Detonator			Eraser				A Simple Wish			Freddy vs Jason		
Star Movies			Dance With Me (3:45 PM)					From Justin To Kelly			Spartacus			Safe Men			28 Days Later (10:45PM)		
Cinema One		Love Letters				Milan				Diskarte				Da Best of John & Marsha Sa Pelikula				Walang Katapusang Init	
EWTN	Angels Of God	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Saints For The Third Millennium: St. Therese Of Lisieux	Faith Factory B	Angel Force	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Pope John Paul's Legacy To The Family	Pope Pius XII	The Journey Home		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15 PM)	Swear To God	The Sacraments Through The Ages	St. Catherine Of Sienna	Web Of Faith	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

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Take Charge Doc!

What is Filariasis? Is the illness common in the Philippines?

Lymphatic Filariasis, known as "Elephantiasis", is a chronic parasitic infection caused by thread like parasitic filarial worms (Wuchereria bruncofti and Brugia malayi). Filariasis remains one of the public health problems in the Philippines since 1907 The disease is transmitted through the bite of infected female mosquito (Aedes, Anopheles and Mansonia species). The larvae is carried in the blood circulation and lodged in lymphatic vessels and lymph glands where they mature into adult worms. The chronic complications of Filariasis come after the death of an adult parasites, granulation tissue around the dead parasite results in obstruction of lyphatic channels This produces extensive debilitation and disfigurement resulting to social stigma and extensive alienation. There are 3 basic disease stage: 1) Asymptomatic-patients have hidden damage to the lymphatic system and kidneys, 2) Acute- attacks of "filarial fever" (pain and inflammation of lymph nodes and ducts, often accompanied by fever, nausea and vomiting) increase severity of chronic disease. 3) Chronic- may cause elephantiasis and hydrocele (swelling of the scrotum) in males and enlarged breast in females. Treatment is to prevent, reverse or halt progression of disease and to interrupt transmission of the parasite. Antifilarial drugs are Diethylcarbamazine, Ivermectin and Suramine. Preventive measures include educating patients and public on mode of transmission of disease and methods of mosquito control such as elimination of breeding places and use of bednets, screens and insect repellant.

This week's answer to our feature question was provided by our two-year medical service provider/Medical Coordinator at HealthServ Los Baños Inc. Dr. Ronaldo Escobin Lapitan. Dr. Ron specializes in IM-Infectious and earned his medical degree at Fatima College of Medicine. He took his residency training for Family Medicine in 2000 and later had his subspecialization training in Infectious Disease at San Lazaro Hospital in 2002. Dr. Lapitan is affiliated with the Philippine Academy of Family Physician, Inc., Philippine Society for Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, San Lazaro Hospital Fellows Society, Makiling Medical-Laguna Medical Society and Philippine Medical Association. MEDICard members may visit him at HealthServ Los Baños, Mondays 9am-4pm and Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9am-2pm. Calamba Medical Center Tuedays to Fridays 3pm-5pm

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

Nicky

MEDICard [illegible] Tel. No. [illegible] Fax No. [illegible] Text: Key in MEDICARD and send to [illegible] E-mail: [illegible]

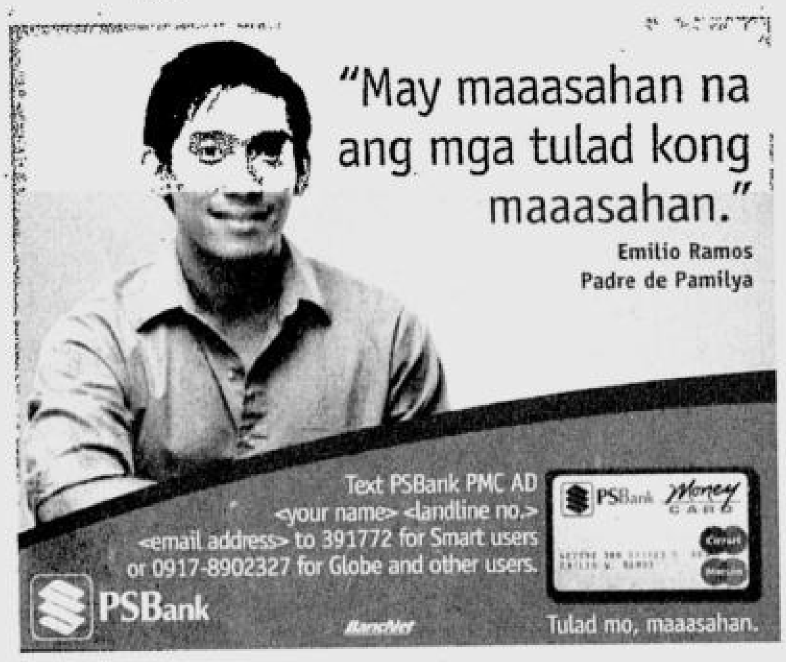
Manila hosts international congress of heart, lung surgeons

THE 17TH BIENNIAL CONGRESS OF THE Association of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeons of Asia will be held Nov. 20-23 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

World-renowned surgeons in thoracic and cardiovascular surgery and critical care specialists will discuss the latest developments in these fields of medicine.

Topics include treatment of lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, esophageal surgery, aortic aneurysms and dissections, congenital heart surgery, surgery for the failing heart, valve, coronary, re-do cardiac, minimally invasive surgery, cerebral protection, heart and lung transplantation and other illnesses of the pulmonary and cardiovascular systems, as well as the management of the critically ill patients.

Visit www.atcsa.org, e-mail info@atcsa.org, call 9293826 and 9252401 local 3216, or text 0920-9126436 and 0927-9995377.


"May maaasahan na ang mga tulad kong maaasahan."
Emilio Ramos
Padre de Pamilya

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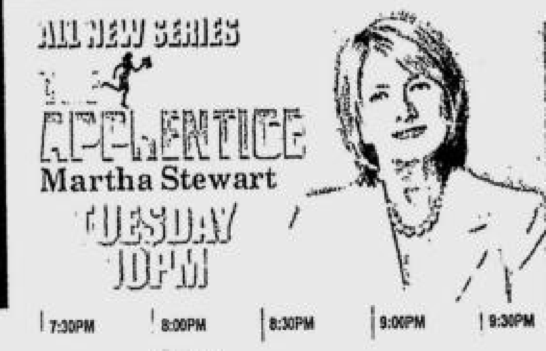
Tulad mo, maaasahan.

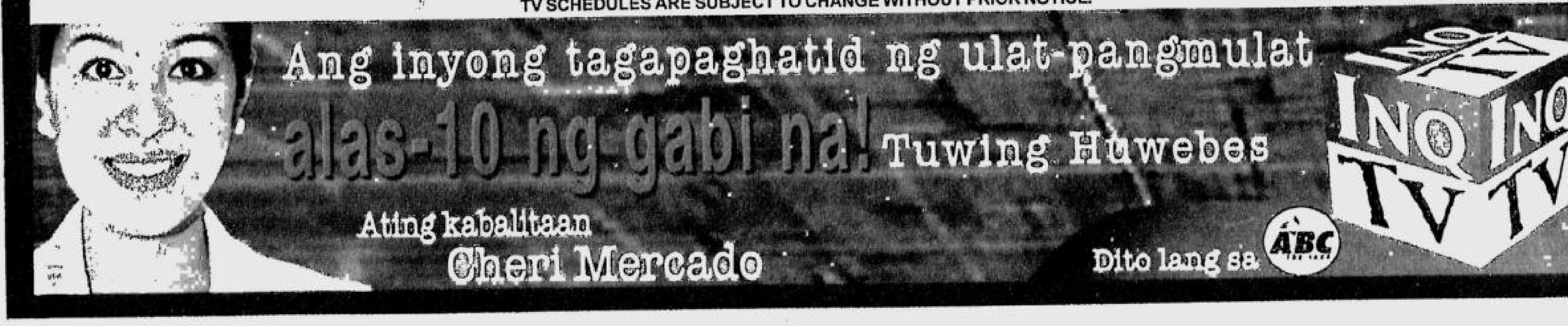
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE Tuesday November 8, 2005

ALL NEW SEASON THE APPRENTICE MONDAY 10PM
SEE IT FIRST ON ABC


ALL NEW SERIES THE APPRENTICE Martha Stewart TUESDAY 10PM
ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN		Value Vision		New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Ting ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo				Pilipinas Ngayon Na!		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Amazing Twins	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Vietnam Rose	Kampanerang Kuba	Panday	Pinoy Big Brother	Bora			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		World Pool Trickshot Master				Sentro	Mumbai Thriller	Sakristan Mayor				Big News	The Apprentice		ALI	
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Hotelier	12 Kingdoms	Slam Dunk	All For Love		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Dama	Encantadia	Sugo	Sassy Girl	Buhay Mo Ba To?			Saksi
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Global Battle Of The Bands	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Real Gilligan's Island		The Cut		Paradise Hotel		Newswatch Now	Tuesday Night Treat		
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Japan Video Topics		ME TV		Sea Games Special		King Of Adventure	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop						Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Music Video		Buhay Pinoy	
Studio 23								Get Backers	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup	The Rebel Billionaire	Angel		Smallville		News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me
MTV Philippines	MTV Screen	Spring Break	Diyos		Punk'D	Pop Inc.		MTV Hits				MTV Hits	Get Spotted	TRL		Advance Warning	Pimp My Ride	MTV Hits	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYX Versions		Star MYX	MYXILOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Top Of The Pops		MYX News	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN												Sportscenter Asia							RTC # 7-Nuggets
Solar Sports		2005 US Open 9-Ball C'ship		Fight	NBA Game New Jersey Nets @ Miami Heat					Swatch FIVB Tour Stare Jablonki		2005 US Open 9-Ball C'ship		NBA Game San Antonio Spurs @ Chicago Bulls					
Sports Plus								Raceworld		Dickies 500 Highlights		Ultimate Fighting Championship				Celebrity Poker Tournament			
Cinemax		Contagious (3:15PM)				El Diablo				Purple Hearts				Fire Down Below			The Sea Wolves (10:45PM)		
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Wire In The Blood		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	The Nanny	Mysterious Way		Wire In The Blood		The Freediver			Agency II (10:35PM)		Mysterious Way
Disney Channel	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Lilo & Stitch	Sabrina: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Phil Of The Future	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel		Altered Species		Why Intelligence Fails		Wild Science: Queen Mary 2, Birth Of A Legend		Rides		Human Discovery		Wild Discovery		Deadliest Catch		Mostly True Stories			
National Geographic		7/7 Attack On London			The Airshow Miracle	Is It Real?		Top 5		Wow!		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Seconds From Disaster		Inside 911	
Cartoon Network	Yogi Bear Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	What's New Scooby Doo?	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Codename: Kids Next Door	Duck Dodgers	Battle B-Daman	Machine Robo-Rescue	Johnny Bravo	Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Samurai Jack	Mike, Lu & Og	Time Squad	Codename Kids Next Door	Duck Dodgers
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/ What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot/ Right On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	Drake & Josh	The Fairly Odd Parents	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	The Brothers Garcia
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fix	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Molto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Passion For Dessert	Second Look		Look For Less	Life & Style		Who's Wedding Is It Anyway?		Road & Track	Back To Basics
Star World	Becker/Miss World Asia Pacific Vote For Me /Miss World Caribbean Vote For Me	The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Angel		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Friends	Ed		Desperate Housewives		Tru Calling		Friends	Ed
AXN		Lost		Lost		Sports Disasters IV		Beastmaster		Pensacola (Season III)		The Amazing Race Family Edition		Worlds Apart		House		Las Vegas	
JackTV	Family Guy	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Beat The Geeks	WWE Bottomline		WWE Afterburn		X-Play	Banzai	Mad TV		Trigger Happy TV	Primetime Glick	South Park	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Ren & Stimpy Adult Party Cartoon	Family Guy	Wwe Heat	
ETC		Good Morning Miami	Knock First	1 Hr Edited Version Of Today Show		Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	JKX	Simple Life	One Tree Hill		For Love Or Money		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO			Death Wish 4: The Crackdown				Detonator			Eraser				A Simple Wish			Freddy vs. Jason		
Star Movies			Dance With Me (3:45PM)					From Justin To Kelly			Spartacus			Safe Men			28 Days Later (10:45PM)		
Cinema One		Love Letters				Milan				Diskarte				Da Best of John & Marsha Sa Pelikula				Walang Katapusang Init	
EWTN	Angels Of God	Angelus (3:15PM)	Saints For The Third Millennium: St. Theresa Of Lisieux	Faith Factory B	Angel Force	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Pope John Paul's Legacy To The Family	Pope Pius XII	The Journey Home		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15PM)	Swear To God	The Sacraments Through The Ages	St. Catherine Of Sienna	Web Of Faith	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.


Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV